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AFGHANISTAN. 15 Mar.—King Zahir Shah in Cairo (*see Egypt*).

ARGENTINA. 21 Mar.—A decree was published providing economies amounting to a minimum of 750 m. pesos for the current year's federal Budget.

AUSTRALIA. 9 Mar.—*Foreign Affairs*. Mr Spender, Minister for External Affairs, discussing the world outlook in the House of Representatives, spoke of Australia's desire to co-operate with the new States of Asia in combating the expansion of Communism. The Government's attitude to Communist China would largely depend on whether the Peking Government tried to stir up unrest in Asia. There was no logical reason why democracy and Communism, as distinct from Communist imperialism, could not co-exist. Any new approach to Russia, however, must be based on a policy of power. Attempts at appeasement would be both ineffective and dangerous. Asia's problem of poverty was no less important than the pressure of external forces and the Government were concerned at the lack of a concerted effort to check or reverse, through international economic measures, the political and economic deterioration. Owing to the magnitude of the problem, economic progress depended largely on U.S. participation. Membership of the Consultative Committee for aid to south-east Asia set up at the Colombo Conference was open not only to British Commonwealth countries but also to other Governments with interests in the area.

Discussing Japan, he said that while every precaution must be taken against a resurgence of Japanese militarism Japan must be allowed to become self-supporting by industrial production and trade. Much of Asia needed many of the goods that only Japan could at present supply. A peace settlement should be reached as soon as possible, and Australia had an indisputable right to participate in it. The Government regarded the formation of a Pacific Pact as an urgent objective. What was envisaged was a defensive military arrangement embodying a firm agreement between the countries having a vital interest in the stability of Asia and the Pacific and capable of undertaking military commitments. Such a pact would be meaningless without the U.S.A.

After appealing for closer co-operation between the Commonwealth countries, with regular meetings of the High Commissioners in the different capitals and an increased number of informal conversations between Commonwealth representatives, he said that the Government's objective was to build up a similar relationship with the U.S.A.

16 Mar.—*Government Changes*. Mr Casey was appointed Minister of National Development and Mr McLeay Minister of Transport, retaining also their other portfolios. Mr Beale, the former Minister for Information and Transport, was given the portfolio of Supply, which was to function as a separate department.

19 Mar.—Mr Casey, Minister for National Development, said in a broadcast that the population must be doubled in the shortest possible time if Australia's right to her own territory was to remain unchallenged. This would mean bringing in at least 20,000 immigrants every year.

20 Mar.—U.S.A. Mr Spender spoke to the Australian-American Association of Australia's desire for closer relations with the U.S.A. Referring to Mr Acheson's San Francisco speech he said that the next step was for the two Governments to work out policies and plans in relation to the western Pacific or any other area or situation in which Australia could participate in maintaining peace.

AUSTRIA. 3 Mar.—It was learned that the Government had sent Notes to the British, U.S., and French Governments asking them to reduce their occupation forces and to make a similar request on behalf of Austria to the Soviet Government. There were understood to be 68,000 foreign troops in the country—44,000 Russians, 10,000 Americans, 8,500 British, and 6,000 French.

4 Mar.—Soviet reply to Note on peace treaty (*see U.S.S.R.*).

8 Mar.—Dr Grüber, Foreign Minister, speaking in Parliament, asked that Britain, France, and the U.S.S.R. should—like the U.S.A.—pay their own occupation costs. He also asked for a drastic reduction in the numbers of occupation forces, the return of requisitioned premises, the abolition of military courts and censorship, and the raising of zonal frontiers. Other proposals called for a reduction of Allied controls and interferences in Austrian affairs. He also said that the Austrian people would not 'be taken in' by allegations that it was the western Powers who were holding up the treaty.

10 Mar.—Dr Grüber in Paris (*see European Economic Co-operation*).

12 Mar.—Dr Figl, the Federal Chancellor, speaking in Vienna proposed a meeting of Britain, the U.S.A., Russia, and France in Vienna.

18 Mar.—The Soviet authorities announced that two Austrians had been sentenced by a Soviet military court to twenty-five and five years imprisonment respectively for complicity in the murder of a Soviet officer. Notes had been sent to the Austrian Government and to the U.S. occupation authorities demanding the arrest and surrender of two members of the Austrian police who were chiefly responsible for the murder and had escaped to the U.S. Zone.

21 Mar.—The Government rejected the Soviet demand for the extradition from the U.S. Zone of two members of the police.

BECHUANALAND. 8 Mar.—British decision on Seretse Khama (*see Great Britain*).

13 Mar.—Sir Evelyn Baring, the High Commissioner, told a press conference that the British Government's decision on Seretse Khama was an attempt to stop 'the development of one of the worst dynastic feuds that there has ever been' among a tribe notorious for its quarrels. The South African Government had taken no part in the action apart from banning Seretse from Union territory and had made no approach to the British Government.

16 Mar.—Statement by the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations (*see Great Britain*).

22 Mar.—White Paper issued (*see Great Britain*).

BELGIUM. 3 *Mar.*—Eighty people were arrested in Liège following a violent demonstration by members of the Christian Social Youth movement, which supported the return of King Leopold, outside the Socialist Party's headquarters.

12 *Mar.*—*Referendum on King Leopold.* A total of 5,236,740 votes were cast in the referendum, showing a majority of 57.68 per cent in favour of the King's return. The voting was as follows:— in favour, 2,933,382, against 2,151,881, blank 151,477. In Flanders 72 per cent of the votes were in favour of the King, in the Walloon region 42 per cent, and in the Brussels district 48 per cent.

13 *Mar.*—M. Eyskens, Prime Minister, left Brussels for discussions with King Leopold at Pregny, Switzerland.

15 *Mar.*—M. van Cauwelaert, the Christian Social president of the House of Representatives, and M. Gillon, the Liberal president of the Senate, flew to Geneva where they met M. Eyskens and were received by King Leopold.

16 *Mar.*—At Pregny King Leopold, attended by the Prime Minister, handed to the President of the two Houses of Parliament a statement declaring that he would accept the decision of Parliament, and would abdicate if Parliament considered that his prerogatives should not be returned to him. If, however, the decision were in the opposite sense all should accept it and forget past recriminations. He said the referendum had shown the will of a not contemptible majority that he should resume his prerogatives. His oath bound him to perform the duties of his office, and he could relinquish them only if the people's will obliged him to do so.

18 *Mar.*—*Government Changes.* The Government resigned owing to disagreement between the Christian Socialists and the Liberals on the question of the King's return.

19 *Mar.*—The Regent, after consulting the presidents of both Houses of Parliament and the leaders of the three main parties, asked M. Eyskens to try to form a new Government.

21 *Mar.*—The Christian Social members of Parliament issued the text of a motion insisting on the King's return, while the Liberals voted a motion stating that they would only co-operate towards a solution based on national understanding.

22 *Mar.*—M. Eyskens announced his failure to form a Government, and Count Henri Carton de Wiart, another Christian Socialist, was asked to investigate the possibilities.

BENELUX. 18 *Mar.*—The fourth Economic Congress of the three countries met in Brussels.

BOLIVIA. 17 *Mar.*—*Anti-Government Plot.* The discovery was announced of a plot by both Right-wing Nationalists and Communists led by Señor Alborta, a member of the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement. Several arrests were made.

BRAZIL. 15 *Mar.*—President Dutra's private secretary said that the

President was determined to relinquish office in January 1951—the end of the legal term—regardless of developments.

BRITISH WEST AFRICA. 6 Mar.—*Nigeria.* It was announced that the ten-year development plan, estimated to cost £55 m., would have to be redrafted because of the rise in costs and because the money available could not be increased.

8 Mar.—*Nigeria.* M. Okoye, general secretary of the Zikist movement, was sentenced to thirty-three months' imprisonment on charges of possessing seditious publications.

BULGARIA. 3 Mar.—Yugoslav Note rejecting charges (*see Yugoslavia*).

4 Mar.—Mr Shipkov's affidavit on police methods of obtaining a 'confession' (*see United States*).

6 Mar.—*Espionage Trial.* Mr Shipkov and four other men were put on trial as spies and American agents. The indictment accused the former U.S. Minister of directing their activities and of working actively himself against the security and independence of Bulgaria. Mr Shipkov pleaded guilty. He denied that he had been tortured by the police and said that he had only told this story to the U.S. Minister in order to arouse his sympathy.

8 Mar.—The five defendants were found guilty and sentenced to prison terms ranging from fifteen to four and a half years.

21 Mar.—*Espionage.* Seven people were sentenced to long terms of imprisonment on charges of being 'spies and Trotskyites in the service of British intelligence'.

BURMA. 6 Mar.—*Government Changes.* Thakin Nu, Prime Minister, announced the appointment of three new Ministers:— U Tin, Public Health (a new Ministry); U Khin Maung, Justice; and Mr Rivers, Relief and Resettlement. He also said that the Socialist Party had refused an invitation to submit a candidate for one of the posts.

7 Mar.—The Government received a joint Note from the Governments of the U.K., Australia, India, Pakistan, and Ceylon, in reply to their request for financial assistance. A sum of £3,750,000 was proposed as the U.K. share in the loan.

19 Mar.—Toungoo, 180 miles north of Rangoon, was recaptured from the rebels.

21 Mar.—Trade agreement with Japan (*see Japan*).

22 Mar.—Statement on British aid (*see Great Britain*).

CANADA. 3 Mar.—*Foreign Affairs.* Mr Pearson, Secretary of State for External Affairs, told Parliament that the international economic difficulties could only be solved through the acceptance by all free countries of sound financial and trading policies. The sterling countries should avoid measures leading to the creation of high-cost, restrictive, and discriminatory areas, and the dollar countries should help the sterling debtor countries to settle their international accounts by encouraging

CANADA (*continued*)

them to export more goods and services. He spoke of a continuing revival of confidence among the democratic countries of Europe, due in large measure to the reassurance brought about by the North Atlantic Pact, and of the declining influence of Communism in countries west of the Iron Curtain. On the question of the control of atomic weapons he said it was essential to move very carefully and to make clear that the free peoples were not prepared, through fear or insecurity, to make any unrequited sacrifice which would weaken their position in return for nothing.

9 Mar.—It was learned that the Congress of Labour had decided to set up a political action committee on a permanent basis.

CARIBBEAN COMMISSION. 6 Mar.—The four member nations, the U.S.A., Britain, France, and the Netherlands, agreed to a programme designed to raise the standard of living in the Caribbean area.

CHINA. 2 Mar.—*Britain.* The Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs in the Peking Government, Mr Chang Han-fu, received Mr Hutchison, the British Chargé d'Affaires.

Gen. Chiang Kai-shek, addressing a meeting in Taipeh, Formosa, spoke of the immediate necessity of political and military reforms and said that Formosa must be fortified as a first step towards reconquering the mainland. All efforts must be concentrated on fighting Communism to the bitter end.

3 Mar.—Several hundred casualties were reported when Nationalist aircraft raided Canton.

4 Mar.—Mao Tse-tung, the Communist leader, and Chou En-lai, the Foreign Minister, returned to Peking from Moscow.

5 Mar.—Nationalist bombers raided targets along the Kwantung coast. Refugees were reported to be fleeing from Canton.

6 Mar.—A force of 900 Communist troops landed on Hainan Island and were repulsed with heavy losses, according to Nationalist reports.

7 Mar.—*Land Reform.* It was learned that the Peking Government had issued a directive ordering that the redistribution of land in newly 'liberated' areas should not be carried out before the coming autumn harvest. The Governments of twelve central and southern provinces were given discretion to postpone it until the autumn of 1951. In the meantime all rents must be reduced. Landlords might not dispose of their land but the sale of land between peasants was not prohibited. Public grain collected by the Central Government must not exceed 17 per cent of the crops in newly 'liberated' areas.

8 Mar.—*Government Changes.* Gen. Chen Cheng, nominee of Gen. Chiang Kai-shek, was elected Nationalist Prime Minister in succession to Marshal Yen Hsi-shan.

Hong Kong. Sir Alexander Grantham, the Governor, speaking at the Budget session of the Legislative Council said that the estimates for the coming year called for expenditure of 199 m. dollars with a deficit of about 7,500,000 dollars. The colony's trade in 1949 totalled £317 m.—

an increase of 38 per cent over the record 1948 figures. He also said that the Government could not allow Hong Kong to become a battleground for contending ideologies but they watched with sympathy events in China and wanted to help China in her undoubted difficulties.

9 Mar.—*Hong Kong*. The Government issued a warning that unauthorized aircraft flying within the Hong Kong boundaries were liable to be fired on.

Mr Spender on Communist Government (*see Australia*).

10 Mar.—*Hong Kong*. Sir Arthur Morse, chairman of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Association said in his annual address to shareholders that there was no reason why Britain and China should not trade on satisfactory terms. Foreign banks, in view of their specialized experience, could—if they were permitted to operate—continue to render useful services to eastern countries, especially in connection with the expansion of foreign trade and industrialization. He also said that as a result of the Nationalist blockade of Communist ports Hong Kong's facilities had been used increasingly for world trade with China.

11 Mar.—About 1,000 Communist troops landed in eastern Hainan according to Nationalist reports. Seven hundred men were lost in the landings and the remainder surrendered.

12 Mar.—*Government Changes*. A new Nationalist Cabinet was announced in Taipeh by Gen. Chen Cheng. It included only two Ministers from the outgoing Cabinet—George Yeh, who was retained as Foreign Minister and C. K. Yen, who was moved from Economic Affairs to Finance. Other appointments included: Shang Li-sheng, deputy Prime Minister, and Gen. Yu Ta-wei, Defence Minister.

A through train from Shanghai arrived in Hong Kong—the first since the Communist occupation of south China.

13 Mar.—Mr Younger on British recognition (*see Great Britain*).

14 Mar.—The almost complete destruction of Lunghwa airport, Shanghai, was reported by the Nationalist airforce.

15 Mar.—Mr Acheson's speech (*see United States*).

Famine. Details became available of a report by Mr Tung Pi-wu, a vice-Premier in the Central People's Government, at the inaugural meeting of the Central Famine Relief Committee in Peking on 27 February. He estimated that 7 m. famine refugees were in urgent need of relief and described the measures taken by the Communist authorities to alleviate the situation. But these efforts were not enough and many mistakes had been made. The serious stage was not yet over and the crisis must be combated by an all-out mobilization.

16 Mar.—*Foreign Trade*. The Government in Peking announced measures for bringing all foreign trade under State control, and making the Ministry of Trade the supreme organization for guiding all the State-operated trade organs and private organizations. Six national corporations under the Ministry were created, to cover food, textiles, general goods, coal, and farm produce.

18 Mar.—Mr Chou En-lai, the Communist Foreign Minister, described Mr Acheson's San Francisco speech as an attempt 'to dope some people who still lack experience of America's aggressive policy'.

CHINA (*continued*)

The U.S.A. had acquired many strategic islands in the Pacific fifty years ago. It had obtained control of Japan and South Korea after the second world war and was also attempting to control China, Indonesia, Viet Nam, Thailand, Burma, and India. American 'aid' meant 'death for millions and . . . the loss of national freedom'.

20 Mar.—*Famine*. The Communist news agency reported that the vice-chairman of the provincial Government of Shantung had appealed to local authorities for a major effort to prevent further suffering in the province. Three million people were leaving the province in search of food.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE. 21 Mar.—The third session of the general affairs committee of the Consultative Assembly opened in Strasbourg under the chairmanship of M. Bidault, the French Prime Minister. A message from Mr Bevin, the British Foreign Secretary, said that the Commonwealth representatives at the Colombo conference had seen nothing incompatible in Britain's policy regarding western Europe and the maintaining of traditional links between Britain and the Commonwealth.

22 Mar.—The committee adopted a proposal that each member country should nominate a Minister or Secretary of State for European Affairs who would represent his country in the Council of Europe.

COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS. 4 Mar.—*Austrian Treaty*. Austrian-Soviet exchange of Notes (*see U.S.S.R.*).

CZECHOSLOVAKIA. 2 Mar.—A report to the central committee of the Communist Party by Mr Kopriva, a member of the party executive, which was published said that M. Reiman, head of the Prime Minister's chancery, had committed suicide after being accused of obtaining important State documents. The report also said that 'Tito agents' and others who sought to make Czechoslovakia dependent on the western Powers, had been discovered in the Communist Party and among high officials, especially in the Ministry of Foreign Trade.

Espionage Trial. The trial opened in Prague of Mr Louwers, a Dutch business man, and nine Czechs on charges of espionage, sabotage, and treason. Mr Louwers, who with seven of the other accused pleaded guilty, said that members of the Dutch Legation and of the diplomatic missions of Britain, the U.S.A., and Canada helped people to leave the country illegally.

4 Mar.—*Espionage Trial*. All the defendants were found guilty. Mr Louwers was sentenced to fifteen years' imprisonment and the others to terms ranging from twenty-five to three years. Dutch protest (*see Netherlands*).

5 Mar.—*Church and State*. It was learned that Dr Cepička, Minister of Justice and of Church Affairs, had written a circular letter to the Catholic bishops declaring that a pastoral letter of 17 February confirming Father Dechet's excommunication (*see p. 130*) was 'approval of

the policy of the Vatican—our deadliest enemy' and warning them not to continue their 'open, anti-State, subversive activities'.

7 Mar.—*Netherlands*. A Note was sent to the Dutch Government accusing members of their Legation of helping Czechoslovak citizens to leave the country illegally and of obtaining military secrets. It requested the recall of three members of the Legation staff mentioned in the Louwers' trial.

8 Mar.—Dutch protest and reprisals (*see Netherlands*).

Church and State. Father Dechet was reported to have received a delegation of priests from the Zilina district in Slovakia who assured him of the loyal support of the lower clergy.

10 Mar.—Mr Kliment, Minister of Industry, announced that the five-year plan had been revised to concentrate on expanding heavy rather than light industry.

14 Mar.—*Government Changes*. It was announced that Dr Clementis, Foreign Minister, had resigned and that Mr Zapotocky, Prime Minister, had recommended President Gottwald to appoint Mr Siroky, a deputy Prime Minister, to replace him.

16 Mar.—*Church and State*. The Prague radio announced that Mgr. de Liva, the only remaining representative of the Vatican in the city, had been ordered to leave the country within three days, as he had been engaged in anti-State activities.

18 Mar.—Mgr. de Liva left for Rome.

19 Mar.—*Church and State*. A Congress of about 1,000 pro-Government Catholic priests, meeting at Banska Bystrica, called for co-operation with the State and condemned the opposition by their own leaders and the Vatican.

20 Mar.—*Church and State*. The heads of the non-Catholic churches took the oath of allegiance to the State—the lower and middle clergy of all the churches having done so earlier in the year. It was learned that the Government were offering special rewards to priests who had been excommunicated for supporting the régime.

21 Mar.—Mr Siroky, Foreign Minister, speaking to the Foreign Affairs Committee said that the main task of the Government's foreign policy was to hinder the war aims of the capitalists by 'indefatigably intensifying' the country's bonds with the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies.

22 Mar.—*Espionage Trial*. One man was sentenced to death and thirteen other people, including a Catholic priest, to prison terms ranging from life to four years by a State court at Hodonin, Moravia, on charges of terrorism and espionage.

A court at Ostrava, Moravia, sentenced four men to prison terms ranging from three to twenty-five years for anti-State activities.

DANUBE COMMISSION. 9 Mar.—It was learned that the U.S.S.R. had rejected the British, French, and U.S. Notes reaffirming their refusal to recognize the existing Commission.

EGYPT. 5 Mar.—*Budget*. The Cabinet approved the 1950-51 Esti-

EGYPT (*continued*)

mates which provided for expenditure of £E196 m. and income of £E171 m. The defence estimates were increased by £E3 m. to £E38,231,010, exclusive of Palestine occupation costs.

15 Mar.—It was learned that King Zahir Shah of Afghanistan had left Cairo at the end of his State visit and gone on to Saudi Arabia.

20 Mar.—*Communism*. The Ministry of the Interior announced that the thirteen leading members of the Communist Party and ten lesser Communists had been arrested at Heliopolis. All the party documents had also been seized.

EIRE. 17 Mar.—*E.R.P.* The Government announced their decision to abolish import restrictions on 60 per cent of the goods imported from O.E.E.C. countries, excluding Government purchases.

ERITREA. 12 Mar.—It was learned that an Italian employee of the administration had been ambushed and killed and an Italian truck-driver wounded. Decreased political terrorism by the Shiftas was reported, one band having retreated to Ethiopia and others having turned to cattle raiding in the western province.

22 Mar.—Statement by Emperor Haile Selassie (*see Ethiopia*).

ETHIOPIA. 22 Mar.—The Emperor Haile Selassie told a press correspondent that he would accept the wishes of the Eritrean people in regard to the political future of the territory but would reject trusteeship if it were proposed by the United Nations because it would only postpone a final decision. A partition of the territory would be considered. He denied reports of religious and racial discrimination in Ethiopia and said the Italians in Eritrea had nothing to fear if the territory were ceded to Ethiopia. He condemned the return of Somaliland to Italy as unjust and an outrage.

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION. 10 Mar.—Dr Grüber, the Austrian Foreign Minister, arrived in Paris for two-day discussions with officials of the O.E.E.C. and the E.C.A.

13 Mar.—Mr Harriman told a press conference in Paris that Congress had accepted the November resolution of the O.E.E.C. American policy was designed to support the implementation of Europe's own decisions rather than promote any programme of their own. He reaffirmed that in his London talks he had been convinced of Britain's desire to find a solution to the European payments problem. The E.C.A. believed that Europe could be made viable by 1952 if business continued at a high level and if Congress voted the appropriations. Certain U.S. tariffs were still too high. The solution of this problem depended not only on tariff reform but also on improved marketing by European exporters.

FINLAND. 17 Mar.—*New Government*. Dr Kekkonen, President of the Diet, formed a Cabinet of Ministers belonging to the three centre

parties, Agrarians, Swedes, and Progressives, which together had seventy-five seats in Parliament. The Conservatives were expected to support them, giving them 108 seats (out of a total of 200). Ten Ministers were Agrarians, three were Swedish People's Party, and two Progressives. The Foreign Minister was Ake Gartz, Swedish Party, and the Minister of Finance. Professor Sukselainen, Agrarian. Dr Kekkonen, Agrarian, also took the portfolio of the Interior.

FRANCE. 2 Mar.—*Military Aid*. M. Pleven, Minister of National Defence, described to the Assembly's Foreign Affairs Committee the categories of arms which the Government expected to receive from the U.S.A. and explained in justification that France had so far been unable to re-equip her forces because of the extensive damage suffered by her armament industries.

3 Mar.—*Franco-Saar Agreements*. Five agreements were signed in Paris by M. Schuman, Foreign Minister, and Herr Hoffman, Prime Minister of the Saar. (1) A convention defining relations between the two countries. This established the autonomy of the Saar in administrative, legislative, and juridical matters within the framework of the Saar Constitution of 15 December 1947, and limited the powers of the French representative in the Saar to ensuring the application of French monetary and Customs legislation. It also laid down the conditions in which the French Customs might exercise control on the Saar borders with third countries, and those in which French armed forces might be used for the suppression of internal disorders or in the event of a threat to the external security of either country. There would be an exchange of representatives with diplomatic privileges between the two countries and Saar officials would be allowed to work in French consular posts in countries where the Saar had substantial interests. (2) An agreement confirming the economic union between the two countries and providing for the formation of a mixed economic committee. (3) A convention giving to the French Government the control and management of the coal mines until the signing of the German peace treaty. If at that time the mines were recognized as Saar property the arrangement would be continued to complete a total period of fifty years. In return France would support the Saar claim to ownership of the mines and would pay the Saar Government an annual sum based on the total annual production and the current price, with a fixed minimum. (4) A convention providing for the administration of the railway system by a mixed board composed of six Saarlanders and six Frenchmen, with a Saarlander as chairman. (5) A convention establishing the individual reciprocal rights of Saarlanders in France and Frenchmen in the Saar. All the agreements were intended to last until the signature of a peace treaty with Germany.

Communism. The Communists in the Assembly tried to obstruct discussion of the Government Bill designed to repress sabotage. After a long verbal filibuster they resorted to violence and in the struggle one deputy was badly hurt and some of the furniture was damaged. The hall was cleared against violent Communist opposition.

FRANCE (*continued*)

Austrian Note *re* occupation forces (*see Austria*).

4 Mar.—*Communism*. The Communist filibuster in the Assembly continued. Their opposition to the Bill was shared by the Socialists, who considered it too severe. M. Bidault, broadcasting to the nation, gave a warning against the peril with which France was faced by the campaign against the organization of the defence of France and of her associated States in Indo China, and said he was determined to round off the existing law 'with a text which would discourage, and if necessary punish, violent or concerted action'.

Dr Adenauer on Saar agreement (*see Germany*).

6 Mar.—*Saar*. M. Schuman, replying at a press conference to German criticism of French policy in the Saar, re-emphasized that the agreements were subject to the German peace treaty and that they had been freely negotiated. He also pointed out that the Saar had gained more independence in relation to France than it had enjoyed previously. France was still devoted to the policy of understanding with Germany.

M. Albert Lebrun, former President of the Republic, died.

Strikes. Transport workers in Paris affiliated to the C.G.T. came out on strike, crippling the public services. It was learned that the metal workers in the Paris area were gradually returning to work while the situation in the provinces was stationary.

7 Mar.—President Auriol and M. Schuman in London (*see Great Britain*).

8 Mar.—*Communism*. The Assembly debate was interrupted by a further Communist-provoked outbreak of violence in which several deputies and ushers received injuries, including one broken leg. After order had been restored the anti-sabotage Bill was passed on a motion of confidence by 393 votes to 186. The Bill made punishable with penal servitude:— (a) intentional sabotage, likely to cause an accident, in the manufacture of war material; (b) intentional damage or destruction of national defence material; (c) violent interference with the transport of such materials; (d) conscious participation in a plot to demoralize the Army, with the purpose of damaging national defence.

9 Mar.—*Strikes*. Gas and electricity workers throughout the country came out on strike though a Government order to maintain essential security services was obeyed. It was learned that a number of Paris transport workers had returned to work.

10 Mar.—*Strikes*. The C.G.T. called off the Paris transport strike.

12 Mar.—Dr Jessup, the U.S. Ambassador-at-large, arrived in Paris for a short visit after his tour in the Far East.

13 Mar.—M. Schuman received Dr Jessup for discussions on economic and military aid to Indo China.

14 Mar.—*Indo China*. President Auriol and M. Bidault received Dr Jessup, who later left for Washington.

15 Mar.—*Western Union*. M. Schuman told a news agency that during his recent talks in London with Mr Bevin one of the subjects discussed was the need to implement the Brussels Pact by a plan to finance a common armaments programme. This plan, he said, should be accom-

panied by an effort by each member country towards advancing the common effort by the use of its own resources, thus leading to a division of work and an attempt to marshal and pool common resources. Referring to the proposed European payments scheme he said that the greatest difficulty lay in the special position of Britain, who was determined however not to stay out of the union. But it would be fatal to the agreement if it led once more to a serious drain on U.K. gold and dollar reserves.

16 Mar.—*Atlantic Pact*. The National Assembly approved by 416 votes to 181 a resolution for the ratification of the agreement under which the U.S.A. would send arms to France.

General de Gaulle, speaking to the press in Paris, said he had followed for thirty years the ideas of Dr Adenauer, the German Chancellor, and in which 'this good German' said he had found the echo of the call of Europe. Relations between France and Germany must be reviewed against the European background; the grand design of Charlemagne must be readapted to modern conditions. 'Why', he asked, 'shouldn't the Rhine become a street where Europeans meet, rather than a ditch dividing hostile camps?'

18 Mar.—*Atlantic Pact*. The Council of the Republic endorsed the treaty with the U.S.A. for arms shipments under the Atlantic Treaty by 292 votes to 20 (Communists).

20 Mar.—*Strikes*. The remaining strikers at the Renault works returned to work at the instance of the trade unions, leaving about 230,000 metal workers on strike throughout the country.

21 Mar.—Dr Adenauer's proposal for Franco-German union [(see *Germany*)].

22 Mar.—*Germany*. A statement on Dr Adenauer's proposals issued after a meeting of the Council of Ministers said that the Government were still deeply convinced that the best way to provide a lasting settlement of Franco-German relations was within the framework of the collective organization of Europe. Only such an organization would be wide enough to harmonize the economic problems between the two countries; experience had shown that the establishment of an economic union between two countries was a long and complex undertaking. The Government were prepared to examine any concrete proposals put forward by the German Government.

Wages and Prices. M. Bidault announced in a broadcast that in addition to the basic wage increases offered both in nationalized and in private industry the Government had adopted the principle of bonuses for productivity.

GERMANY. 2 Mar.—*Berlin*. Prof. Reuter, Lord Mayor of western Berlin, told the City Assembly that the *Magistrat* would not allow the Communist Free German Youth to march through the western Sectors during their proposed Whitsun rally. He emphasized that in spite of the lifting of the blockade the Russians and the German Communists had not altered their objective of disturbing the reconstruction and confidence of the western Sectors. But the *Magistrat* would take all necessary

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measures to preserve order. He admitted the seriousness of the unemployment problem but anticipated an improvement resulting from the unfreezing of pre-occupation bank accounts and the inflow of Marshall Aid.

The three western Commandants issued a statement approving Prof. Reuter's announcement about the Whitsun rally.

It was learned that Gen. Kotikov, the Soviet Commandant, had sent a letter to the western Commandants rejecting the charges in their letters of 10 and 18 February and declaring that it was the western Powers who were violating the Paris agreement on the regulation of traffic between Berlin and the West. Referring to their complaint about the detention of lorries, he said that the loads of metal had all been returned to their owners except where it was established that they had been stolen from eastern Germany.

Eastern Germany. Herr Norden, the Government spokesman, told a press conference in Berlin that the elections asked for by Mr McCloy were a trick to bring back Fascism to the eastern Zone and were aimed against the unity of Germany. East German conditions for free elections were the withdrawal of all occupation troops, abandonment of the Occupation Statute and the Ruhr Statute, cancellation of the autonomy of the Saar and permission for the National Front to function throughout Germany.

Rearmament. Gen. von Manteuffel, a former Panzer officer, said in an interview with the west German press agency, D.P.A., that he had written to Dr Adenauer, the Federal Chancellor, offering to raise thirty German divisions for west European defence. He put forward a plan, based on a genuine Franco-German understanding in which Europe, with western Germany's help, would be strong enough to resist an attack for at least six months before the U.S.A. could throw in its full weight. He also suggested a European pact, including Germany and the Atlantic Pact Powers. He rejected the idea of German rearmament 'under present conditions'.

Atomic Energy. The High Commission in western Germany signed a law prohibiting German activity in the field of atomic energy and co-ordinating existing laws on scientific research and control.

3 Mar.—Signature of Franco-Saar agreements (*see France*).

Western Germany. The Federal Government published the text of its reply to the High Commission's criticisms of its economic policies. It rejected the charge that the Government regarded unemployment as incurable and confirmed the plans, which had already been published, to deal with the situation.

The Bundestag passed a Bill reducing income tax.

Refugees. A train-load of nearly 700 refugees from western Poland reached the British Zone. They were granted admittance though only 142 possessed papers authorizing their repatriation under the November agreement between the High Commission and the Polish Government which provided for the entry to western Germany of a total of 25,000 selected refugees.

4 Mar.—*Saar*. Dr Adenauer, the Federal Chancellor, strongly criticized the Saar conventions to a press conference in Bonn and said they endangered the entry of western Germany into the Council of Europe. German possession of the coal mines was necessary to the economic balance of western Germany and their loss was contrary to the aims of the Marshall Plan. The French had acted unilaterally in a matter which had been recognized by the allies as subject to their common consent. France had acquired substantial rights in the Saar and was giving only a token payment in return. If this were permitted in the west how could anything be said to Poland about the Oder-Neisse line? The agreements provided a direct stimulus to German nationalism and had damaged the cause of European co-operation.

Refugees. The High Commission announced that it had ordered the Federal Government to exclude from western Germany any refugees from western Poland not covered by the November agreement. The Polish Government had informed the British Embassy in Warsaw that it 'proposes to proceed with the expulsion to the Federal territory of the entire German population still remaining east of the Oder-Neisse line'. To admit refugees for whom no preparations had been made would only encourage the continuation of these 'inhuman and arbitrary measures'.

5 Mar.—*Saar*. Dr Schumacher, the Social Democratic leader, speaking in the Ruhr, declared his full support for Dr Adenauer's criticism of the Paris agreement which was 'the first big foreign political success of Soviet Russia, and of the nationalists in Germany'.

Dr Braun, the Saar Minister of Justice, welcomed the agreement. He said it was an example of the partial surrender of sovereignty that the other west European countries would have to follow if they were to survive. Moreover it ended all threat of the annexation of the Saar by France.

Herr Hoffmann, the Saar Prime Minister, denied that the agreement was directed against Germany and emphasized that it was subject to the decisions of the peace treaty.

6 Mar.—*Dismantling*. Disorders broke out at the Watenstedt-Salzgitter steel works in Lower Saxony where dismantling was in progress. A crowd of between 500 and 1,000 German workers removed the demolition charges and molested British officials, two of whom were injured. They then sacked the offices of the British Reparations Division and set fire to the records. The *Land* Government later issued a statement expressing regret at the incident, which had endangered the prospect of further British concessions.

Refugees. A train from Poland bearing 186 refugees reached the border of the British Zone; 182 were refused entry as they did not possess the necessary permits. British protest to Poland (*see Poland*).

M. Schuman on the Saar (*see France*).

Berlin. Eastern Sector police announced that nineteen 'agents or saboteurs who disturbed railway operations' had been sentenced to imprisonment.

7 Mar.—*Berlin*. Sir Brian Robertson, the British High Commissioner,

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reaffirmed in a speech in Berlin the British intention of remaining in the city until a satisfactory agreement had been reached on the future of Berlin and of Germany. If those responsible for the increasing 'smoke-cloud of propaganda' about the unity of Germany and peace showed the slightest spirit of co-operation the things they professed to desire could easily be achieved. Defending the High Commission's decision to turn back Germans who were being expelled from beyond the Oder-Neisse line, he said this was a 'deliberate move to embarrass western Germany and cause further difficulties to her economy'. Referring to anti-dismantling demonstrations he said that the Watenstedt-Salzgitter works had been designed exclusively for war production. German recommendations for concessions could not be considered while 'this sort of nonsense is going on'. Questioned about the Saar agreement he said the British Government were satisfied that nothing had been done to prejudice the peace treaty.

Dismantling. British infantry and armoured cars occupied part of the Watenstedt-Salzgitter works and the operations continued with some minor demonstrations.

Saar.—The Social Democratic Party in western Germany published a long memo on developments in the Saar.

8 Mar.—*Refugees.* Herr Lukashek, the Federal Minister for Refugees, said that he could not carry out the Allied order. It was the Government's policy to admit all Germans seeking asylum—any other course was contrary to the principles of humanity.

It was learned that Herr Lukashek had received a Note from the east German Government urging him to act without reference to the High Commission and stating that they, for their part, had agreed to take all expellees in transit from Poland and Czechoslovakia.

Herr Warnke, Secretary of State in the east German Ministry of the Interior, said that only 50,000 Germans were leaving western Poland. Western Germany had agreed to accept between 25,000 and 30,000 and the rest would be resettled in eastern Germany.

Dismantling. Herr Storch, the Federal Minister of Labour, addressed a mass meeting at the Salzgitter works condemning the acts of violence and persuaded the workers not to molest the British demolition teams during the following three days so as to give the Government a chance to negotiate.

9 Mar.—*Western Germany.* Prof. Erhard, Minister of Economics, announcing measures to stimulate export trade at a meeting in Bonn said that the dollar gap was so serious that Germany was able to pay only 5.7 per cent of her imports from the U.S.A. out of proceeds derived from exports. Fifty per cent of total imports were however being paid out of export proceeds. Defending the Government's system of 'free economy' he spoke of their intention to liberalize trade with all countries, and said that Germany was pursuing more closely than all the other participating nations the principles of the Marshall Plan.

Saar. A White Book on the Saar published by the Federal Government proposed that discussions should be held between France and

the Saar on the possibility of setting up an international Saar Authority on the lines of the Ruhr Authority, thus solving the problem 'within the framework of European co-operation'. Other proposals included:— (1) the framing of a pact linking the Saar's economy more closely with that of Lorraine and south Germany. The Saar would be given 'local economic autonomy' but would be again politically linked with Germany; (2) the holding of a plebiscite to confirm any special régime set up in the Saar and any ultimate separation from Germany. The White Book, which had been approved by the main political parties, recapitulated the Government's grievances against French treatment of the Saar and argued that the 1947 elections on which the Constitution was based were neither free, democratic, nor unbiased.

Dismantling. A statement issued by the National Council of the National Front on the events at Salzgitter said that British troops were 'waging war on German soil' . . . against the workers who were defending their natural right to exist. These troops were 'no longer acting as occupation troops but as an interventionist army'.

10 Mar.—*Western Germany.* The High Commission announced that occupation costs in 1950–51 would amount to 4,048 m. marks—545 m. less than in the previous year. The total, which represented about one-fifth of the Federal Budget, would be divided as follows:— British Zone, 1,741 m. marks (including 60 m. for the maintenance of tripartite organizations in the Ruhr and in Bonn); U.S. Zone, 1,517 m.; French Zone, 790 m.

Saar. Dr Adenauer, reviewing the Government's case on the Saar to Parliament, reaffirmed that nothing final could be settled before the peace treaty and said that the French and British High Commissioners had both confirmed that the recent agreements were subject to this proviso. He had also had British assurances that Saar autonomy as specified in the general convention did not mean that the Saar was an independent country. He complained, however, that the agreements had created conditions which it might not be possible to alter and said that France had only trustee rights in the Saar and that the Saar had no disposal rights over the mines and railways. He also complained of the lack of political freedom in the Saar, and demanded the restoration of basic rights. In no case should the Saar question be allowed to damage relations between France and Germany but the new agreements had given rise to doubts that a corresponding desire for good relations existed in France. A decisive step forward was required to overcome these doubts and for that reason he had suggested to a U.S. journalist that there should be a 'European Union' between the two countries. Dr Schumacher and other speakers also criticized the agreements but the tone of the debate was generally moderate.

Berlin. An order issued by the Soviet Zone authorities denied international permits to all west Berlin vessels used in river and canal traffic.

East and west Berlin youths clashed on the border of the U.S. and Soviet Sectors. Police from both Sectors collaborated to clear the streets.

11 Mar.—Polish Note on German refugees (*see Poland*).

Saar. Correspondence on the Saar between Sir Brian Robertson and

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Dr Adenauer was published. It included an unqualified statement that the British Government regarded all the Saar convention as being subject to confirmation at a peace treaty.

Dismantling. It was learned that Sir Brian Robertson had informed Herr Kopf, Prime Minister of Lower Saxony, that no changes would be considered in the dismantling plans at Salzgitter unless the men responsible for the recent disturbances were brought to justice.

13 Mar.—*Saar.* A special meeting of the Ministerial Council of the east German Government adopted a resolution condemning French 'annexation' of the Saar and attacking the 'treasonable puppet Government' of Herr Hoffmann, and also Dr Adenauer and Dr Schumacher.

14 Mar.—*Refugees.* A spokesman of the Ministry of Refugees in Bonn said that the Federal Government could accept no Germans other than those on the official lists agreed to by the High Commission and the Polish and Czechoslovak Governments. An uncontrolled stream of refugees would add to an already overwhelming burden.

Dismantling. Two men were sentenced to short terms of imprisonment by a British court in Hanover for responsibility for a newspaper article advocating direct action to stop dismantling at Salzgitter.

15 Mar.—*Dismantling.* Mr McCloy said on arrival at Frankfurt from his visit to the U.S.A. that the U.S. Government supported the dismantling or destruction of all buildings and equipment at Salzgitter which were peculiarly fitted for steelmaking or military purposes.

Communist anti-dismantling demonstrations occurred in Hamburg and Frankfurt.

Refugees. Only about 100 out of a total of 763 Germans from Poland who had arrived the previous day at the zonal frontier were found to have the necessary papers and were allowed to enter the British Zone.

16 Mar.—Appointment of new British High Commissioner (*see Great Britain*).

17 Mar.—*Western Germany.* It was learned that the Government had accepted the High Commission's invitation to rejoin the Control Commission of the Rhine Waterways.

18 Mar.—*Dismantling.* Tests with explosives on part of the dry dock 'Elbe 17' at Hamburg were carried out without incident.

20 Mar.—*Berlin.* Mr McCloy visited Berlin. He told a press conference that he had again discussed the question of all-German elections with Mr Acheson, the U.S. Secretary of State. The next step depended on the attitude of the German leaders. The west was ready to hear representatives of east German opinion but would not listen to puppets. He also said that one-third of the Marshall aid funds for Berlin had been put into circulation.

21 Mar.—*Franco-German Union.* The Federal Government's information service issued the text of a statement by Dr Adenauer to a U.S. journalist in which after describing the dangers inherent in the European situation he said that the only way to convince Russia that she would not profit by aggression was for western Europe to take a new and really decisive step forward. Such a step would be the creation of a

Franco-German economic union as a first step towards a political union and as the nucleus of a wider union of European countries. A Government spokesman said that this proposal was widely approved by the Cabinet.

22 Mar.—French official statement on Dr Adenauer's proposal (*see France*).

All-German Elections. A statement issued by the Federal Government welcomed Mr McCloy's proposal for the holding of free elections throughout the country and said that three conditions were necessary for the reunification of Germany: (1) the four Powers must agree on an electoral law on the basis of which the German people would elect a Constituent Assembly; (2) the four Powers or the United Nations must appoint commissions to supervise the freedom of these elections in all parts of Germany; (3) when the Constitution had been drawn up it must be submitted to the people for approval. The prerequisite for the elections must be a guarantee by the four Powers of the freedom of all personal and political activity and campaigning.

Herr Grotewohl, the eastern German Prime Minister, described the western terms as 'nonsense' and said that before all-German elections could be held the 'separatist' developments in western Germany must be done away with.

Dismantling. It was learned that the Government of Lower Saxony and the management of the Salzgitter works had written to the British authorities expressing their regret at the recent disturbances and stating that evidence was being sought against those who organized them. Statement by Mr Bevin (*see Great Britain*).

GREAT BRITAIN. 3 Mar.—Mr Strachey, Secretary for War, issued a statement in reply to a press attack declaring that he had never been a member of the Communist Party and that it was common knowledge that he had repudiated his early Communist sympathies since 1940.

Austrian Note *re* occupation forces (*see Austria*).

Closure of information office in Bucharest (*see Rumania*).

6 Mar.—In his speech at the opening of Parliament the King said that the Government's foreign policy would be continued, including support for the O.E.E.C., through which it was hoped to work out a new European payments scheme, for the United Nations, the Council of Europe, and the North Atlantic Treaty. In particular every effort would be made through the United Nations to find agreement on international control of atomic energy. At home all practical steps would be taken to promote agricultural production. Only a limited programme of legislation was proposed for the current session, but if it were necessary for the maintenance of full employment measures would be introduced 'even though they may seem likely to prove contentious'.

Mr Attlee, Prime Minister, told Parliament that work was proceeding at official level on the Spender plan proposed at the Colombo Conference. In Germany the economic situation was causing them great concern and showed the failure in that country of too great a release

GREAT BRITAIN (*continued*)

from controls. On the subject of atomic energy and the hydrogen bomb he made clear that the fundamental prerequisite for international control was Russian good will and the abandonment of her world-wide subversive activities. He gave a warning against illusory undertakings which could only give a sense of false security and dismissed the idea of high-level meetings. Referring to the Fuchs case he took full responsibility for the efficiency of the security services and said that without the kind of police employed in totalitarian countries nothing could have been discovered earlier against the man.

Defence. A White Paper on the Defence Estimates for 1950 (*H.C. No. 5*) was presented to Parliament by Mr Shinwell, Minister of Defence. It emphasized that the Government's defence policy was based on collective self-defence within the framework of the U.N. Charter, in co-operation with the Commonwealth, the U.S.A., and other like-minded nations. Apart from their commitments under the Brussels and North Atlantic Treaties the Government had responsibilities in the Middle and Far East and there was also the task of garrisoning the occupied territories of enemy and ex-enemy countries. Total estimated expenditure was £780,820,000, nearly £21 m. more than in 1949-50. The numerical strength of the forces would be reduced—to 718,800 by 1 April 1950, and to 682,100 by 1 April 1951. But nearly £35 m. more would be spent on equipment and research than in the current financial year. The reduction in manpower had been greatly helped by an inter-service review of the development of the forces which had been set on foot by the Government just over a year ago. This review had made clear that there were no grounds for any substantial changes in the relative roles of the three services or for any drastic curtailment in the strength of any one of them.

Protest to Poland *re* German refugees (*see Poland*).

7 *Mar.*—*France.* The French President, M. Auriol and his wife, arrived in London on a State visit. They were accompanied by M. Schuman, Foreign Minister.

Mr Bevin, Foreign Minister, received M. Schuman.

Soviet denial of contact with Dr Fuchs (*see U.S.S.R.*).

Estimates. The Vote on Account presented to the Commons showed that expenditure on the civil and revenue departments and the Ministry of Defence in 1950-51 would amount to £2,375 m. New supplementary estimates for 1949-50 which were also published amounted to £148 m., including £98,730,000 for the National Health Service.

Defence. The Army Estimates for 1950-51 were published, showing a net expenditure of £299,000,100, compared with £304,700,000 the previous year. The estimates were accompanied by an explanatory memo (Cmd. 7896).

E.R.P. Sir Stafford Cripps, Chancellor of the Exchequer, received Mr Harriman, representative in Europe of the E.C.A., who had arrived from Washington for a short visit.

Proposed loan to Burma (*see Burma*).

8 *Mar.*—*Defence.* The Air Estimates which were presented to Par-

liament were for a total of £223 m.—an increase of £15,550,000 over the previous year. An accompanying memo (Cmd. 7898) explained that the increase was mainly due to the introduction of more modern types of aircraft and equipment and to the general exhaustion of war-time stocks.

Bechuanaland. Mr Gordon-Walker, Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations, told the House that the Government had decided to withhold recognition from Seretse Khama as Chief of the Bamangwato tribe for at least five years, owing to lack of agreement in Bechuanaland about his marriage to a white woman. During this period Seretse must live outside the protectorate and could only visit it with special permission. For the immediate future, as a purely temporary expedient, the District Commissioner would exercise the function of the native authority with the help of a small native council.

9 Mar.—*Elections.* The Government's overall majority in the House of Commons was reduced to six when a Conservative was elected in the deferred poll in the Moss Side Division of Manchester. The main totals of votes cast in the General Election were: Labour, 13,306,614; Conservative, 11,504,851; Liberal, 2,637,089.

Labour. Mr Isaacs, Minister of Labour, announced that it had been decided to abolish the Control of Engagement Order.

France. President Auriol visited Parliament. The Lord Chancellor and the Speaker made speeches of welcome, emphasizing the close and cordial ties between the two countries. The President in his reply also spoke warmly of Franco-British friendship and said it should inspire the association and co-operation of all nations sincerely devoted to peace.

Defence. The Navy Estimates for 1950–51 were published showing a total of £193 m.—£3,750,000 more than in the previous year. An explanatory statement (Cmd. 7897) by the First Lord of the Admiralty was also issued.

Hungarian Note requesting recall of two diplomats and closure of British Council (*see Hungary*).

West Indies. A report published by the Standing Closer Association of the British Caribbean recommended a federation of all the British West Indian colonies except the Bahamas and Bermuda as the best way 'of achieving economic stability and . . . political independence'. A report by the Commission on the unification of the British Caribbean Public Services was also published.

In a message to the people of the West Indies Mr Griffiths, Secretary of State for the Colonies, approved the report and reaffirmed that the Government did not regard federation as in any way prejudicing the development of self-government in the individual territories. The Government had no wish to influence decisions in these matters which must now be taken by the representatives of the West Indian peoples.

Conviction of Mrs Firth (*see Poland*).

F.R.P. Mr Harriman, speaking at a press conference about the O.E.E.C. plan for a European payments union, said it was recognized that the British Government had special problems because of their obligations to the sterling area. In his discussions with Mr Bevin and Sir Stafford Cripps, he had been convinced of Britain's real desire to

GREAT BRITAIN (*continued*)

overcome the difficulties which lay in the way of her joining the payments union. He denied reports that the E.C.A. was going to introduce a system of incentives or payment of Marshall Plan dollars according to the results attained by each country in the field of economic integration.

10 Mar.—Dr Jessup, the U.S. Ambassador-at-large, arrived in London for a short visit after his tour of the Far East.

France. President Auriol and his suite returned to Paris.

11 Mar.—Polish Note *re* German refugees (*see Poland*).

13 Mar.—*China.* Mr Younger, Minister of State, told the House at question time that Commonwealth and other friendly Governments had been fully informed beforehand of the Government's decision to recognize the Central People's Government in China.

Hungary. It was learned that the Government had recalled two diplomatic officials in Budapest in compliance with the Hungarian Government's request.

14 Mar.—*E.R.P.* Dr Stikker, Political Conciliator of the O.E.E.C., arrived in London.

15 Mar.—*E.R.P.* Dr Stikker had two conversations with Mr Bevin on the proposed European payments scheme. He later left for Paris. M. Schuman on his talks with Mr Bevin (*see France*).

Malaya. Mr Dugdale, Minister of State for Colonial Affairs, told the House at question time that during the past three months there had been over 700 operations by the security forces against the terrorists in Malaya, whose total losses since the start of the emergency were 1,115 killed, 358 wounded, 644 captured, and about 350 surrendered. Nearly half a million people had volunteered for the anti-bandit month. The additional troops to be sent from Hong Kong were the final requirements.

16 Mar.—*Bechuanaland.* The Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations announced in Parliament that the Government agreed to Seretse Khama's return by air to Lobatsi for his impending lawsuit and would pay the cost of the journey and of the legal expenses incurred over his visit to London. He had also been told that arrangements would be made for him to be with his wife around the time of her confinement.

The appointment was announced of General Sir Brian Robertson as C.-in-C. Middle East Land Forces, in succession to General Sir John Crocker, who would become Adjutant-General to the Forces. The new High Commissioner in Germany would be Sir Ivone Kirkpatrick. The change over would take effect from about June.

Note to the Rumanian Government (*see Rumania*).

Defence. Mr Churchill, speaking in the Commons, suggested that a secret session on defence should be held. He called attention to the danger of being unable to offer any assurance to Germany that she might not be overrun by Soviet or satellite invasion. She was forbidden to keep a military force, but beyond her frontier lay the enormous military array of Russia and her satellites far exceeding in power what the allies had got. If the Germans were to have neither a guarantee of defence nor be allowed to contribute to the general framework of

defence they must console themselves that they had no military expenses to bear. The defence of European frontiers could not be achieved if the German contribution was excluded from the thoughts of those who were responsible for their defence.

He also drew attention to the 'immense advances' made in the character and quality of the U-boat menace since the war, and said the flotillas of anti-U-boat vessels which were effective in the war were now largely obsolete. He urged that the main emphasis of their naval effort should now be to create the largest number of light fleet aircraft-carriers and auxiliary carriers which were capable of carrying the necessary modern types of aircraft with which to deal with submarines.

18 Mar.—Sir Godfrey Huggins, Prime Minister of Southern Rhodesia, arrived in London.

20 Mar.—*Defence.* Mr Strachey in a statement to the House on the Army estimates said that in the past year the Army's commitments had slightly increased, involving *inter alia* the dispatch of reinforcements to Hong Kong and the grave problem of the campaign in Malaya where there was no likelihood of spectacular successes which might change the situation overnight. In the Middle East no material reductions of garrisons had yet been possible, and the withdrawal from Greece had been offset by the need to reinforce Somalia during the transfer of authority to the Italians. In view of the fact that recruiting for the regular Army was still falling there was no immediate prospect of reducing the use of national service men to fulfil the Army's commitments. After suggesting various ways of increasing the regular strength he spoke of an impending reorganization of the Territorial Army.

The Air League of the British Empire issued a manifesto expressing 'serious concern' over the state of the air defences of the U.K. and the Commonwealth.

E.R.P. A Treasury spokesman gave details of a memo setting out the Government's views on the proposed European Payments Union which had been drawn up for submission to the O.E.E.C. as a basis for discussion. It reaffirmed the Government's desire to support the scheme and showed that this could best be done if the rules of the E.P.U. system were such as to recognize and provide for the special position of sterling. If the safeguards sought by Britain were accepted the Government would, by way of counter-concession, agree not to avail themselves of the credit facilities to be offered by the E.P.U.—i.e. Britain would make the required amount of sterling available to the E.P.U. but would not herself borrow from the union. One of the main safeguards required was that the bilateral credit agreements negotiated between Britain and the O.E.E.C. countries since the end of the war should continue in force. It appeared that Britain stood to gain little materially from the operation of the E.P.U. but would agree to enter it provided she did not thereby suffer direct losses of gold or dollars.

21 Mar.—*Malaya.* Mr Strachey told the House at question time that additional supplies of armoured vehicles were being sent to Malaya in reply to a request by the military authorities there.

GREAT BRITAIN (*continued*)

Defence. Mr Henderson, Secretary of State for Air, speaking to the House on the Air Estimates said he believed that the period of acute danger to the future of the R.A.F. was over. He gave some details of increased jet fighter strength and said that valuable work was being done on an air-to-air guided missile.

It was announced that Sir Gladwyn Jebb had been appointed as Permanent Representative of the U.K. to the United Nations in succession to Sir Alexander Cadogan who was shortly to retire, and that the new Deputy Under-Secretary of State in the Foreign Office would be Mr Pierson Dixon. It was also announced that Sir Donald Gainer had been appointed Permanent Under-Secretary of State for the German Section of the Foreign Office in succession to Sir Ivone Kirkpatrick.

22 Mar.—*Bechuanaland.* A White Paper (Cmd. 7193) was issued on the Seretse Khama case.

Defence. Mr Callaghan, Financial Secretary to the Admiralty, introducing the Navy estimates to the Commons, said that the highest priority was being given to developing anti-submarine weapons for use by both ships and aircraft.

Germany. Mr Bevin told the House in answer to a question on dismantling that it was not the Government's purpose to destroy buildings or foundations suitable for conversion to peaceful purposes. They fully supported the action at Salzgitter—an industry which was built with forced labour from France and other countries.

Burma. Mr Bevin told the House that since the end of the war Britain had contributed a total of about £72 m. in aid to Burma. Of this the repayment of about £36 m. had been waived under the 1947 Treaty and about £1 m. had been repaid.

Malaya. The Secretary of State for the Colonies told the House at question time that the approximate number of casualties in Malaya for the three months ended 3 March, 1950 were: killed, 11 service men, 76 police, 135 Asiatic civilians, and 4 European civilians; wounded, 24 service men, 62 police, 108 Asiatic civilians, and 2 Europeans.

GREECE. 3 Mar.—It was announced that King Paul had signed a decree placing Gen. Papagos on active military service for the rest of his life, thus permanently preventing him from taking part in politics.

16 Mar.—The Prime Minister, replying to a request from certain British organizations that a general amnesty be granted to the Communist rebels, said they could not do this while they still had 28,000 abducted Greek children behind the iron curtain, 13,000 rebels on the frontiers, and over 500 still at large on Greek soil.

5 Mar.—*Elections.* A general election was held. The results, with 15 seats still outstanding were: Populists, 52 seats; Liberals, 51; E.P.E.K., 46; Democratic-Socialists, 33; E.D.A., 21; P.A.P. 15; M.E.A., 7; National Party, 4; Agrarians, 3; New Party, 2; Independents, 1.

12 Mar.—Leaders of the four centre parties, Mr Venizelos (Liberal),

Mr Papandreou (Democratic Socialist), Gen. Plastiras (Progressive Liberal), and Mr Tsouderos (Democratic Progressive), reached agreement on the possibility of forming a Coalition Cabinet.

22 Mar.—Mr Venizelos, the Liberal leader, agreed to form a Government following the failure of Mr Tsaldaris (Populist) to do so.

HUNGARY. 4 Mar.—U.S.A. The Government received a U.S. Note in reply to their Note of 23 February declaring that the U.S.A. could not recognize the proceedings against Mr Vogeler 'which were completely *ex parte* and were characterized throughout by demonstrably preposterous falsehoods' and that the request for staff reductions was therefore 'improper and irrelevant'. The Note also rejected the request to raise the ban on U.S. citizens' travel to Hungary and to permit the reopening of the Hungarian Consulates in New York and Cleveland, and charged the Hungarian Government with having created 'a situation prejudicial to the conduct of normal diplomatic, consular, and commercial relations'.

9 Mar.—Britain. A Note was sent to the British Government reaffirming that their Legation was over-staffed and requesting the recall of the deputy military attaché and the commercial attaché (both of whom were mentioned in the Sanders trial). The Note also demanded the closing of the British Council in Hungary.

10 Mar.—U.S.A. A Note was sent to the U.S. Government requesting the recall of three Legation officials, described as 'agents' in the Sanders-Vogeler trial. They were the military attaché, an assistant military attaché, and an assistant air attaché.

13 Mar.—The Government were informed that the U.S.A. was recalling three officials as requested. Recall of British officials (*see Great Britain*).

ICELAND. 2 Mar.—*Government Changes*. It was learned that the Government had resigned the previous day following a no-confidence vote on proposals designed to stabilize the economy.

14 Mar.—*Government Changes*. A coalition Government, based on an understanding between the Independence (Conservative) and Progressive Parties, was formed under a Progressive Prime Minister, Mr S. Steinthorsson. The former Prime Minister, Mr Thors (Independent) became Minister of Labour. The only other changes were the appointment of Mr E. Jonsson (Progressive) as Minister of Finance and of Mr H. Jonasson (Progressive) as Minister of Agriculture.

18 Mar.—*Devaluation*. A law was passed devaluing the currency by 42½ per cent with effect from 20 March, and providing for an exchange of 45·6 kronur to the pound instead of 26·22.

INDIA. 3 Mar.—*Communal Riots*. Pandit Nehru, Prime Minister, denied in a broadcast that his speech of 23 February was intended as a threat to Pakistan. India had no intention of resorting to war. He said that about 55,000 Hindu refugees had entered West Bengal from East Bengal during the past few weeks and that the movement continued

INDIA (*continued*)

in spite of all difficulties. He expressed strong opposition to suggestions that Hindu and Muslim populations of East and West Bengal should be exchanged.

Clashes occurred in Chandernagore between armed groups of Hindus and Muslims. The police opened fire and sixteen persons were killed.

4 Mar.—*Communal Riots*. Outbreaks of looting and arson occurred in Calcutta and military patrols opened fire, killing two rioters. Many arrests were reported.

6 Mar.—*Communal Riots*. Pandit Nehru arrived in Calcutta to study the communal situation in West Bengal.

The Government protested to the Pakistani Government against the alleged ill-treatment of Hindus in East Bengal and against 'exaggerated and fabricated' press and radio reports about the situation.

Mr Laik Ali, former Premier of Hyderabad, who had been held under house-arrest since September 1948, escaped.

9 Mar.—*Communal Riots*. Pandit Nehru left Calcutta for Delhi.

13 Mar.—*Communal Riots*. A curfew was imposed in Bombay and the police were mobilized for emergency duty following a series of Hindu-Muslim stabbing incidents in which two people were killed and twelve injured. Thirty-five arrests were made.

Pandit Nehru told Parliament at question time that the Government did not plan to sign non-aggression pacts with any country but that they 'would welcome' negotiations for friendship treaties with other Governments, including Russia and Communist China.

14 Mar.—*Communal Riots*. Pandit Nehru returned to Calcutta to resume his inquiries.

It was learned that the Government's official estimate of Hindu casualties in the recent riots in east Pakistan was 3,500 killed and a larger number injured.

15 Mar.—Treaty signed with Persia (*see Persia*).

17 Mar.—*Communal Riots*. The Prime Minister, speaking in Parliament on the disturbances in Bengal, said that since 13 February about 150,000 Hindus had left East Bengal, and about 100,000 Muslims had left Calcutta for that province. From 5,000 to 6,000 Hindus were still leaving East Bengal daily and about 5,000 Muslims were going there. The immediate problem was to allay the existing panic, and he went on: 'the minorities in East Bengal are certainly our concern to the extent that they have not security, and if they do not have security, measures will have to be devised to give them security'. He regarded a mass exchange of population as not feasible.

INDO CHINA. 3 Mar.—Recognition of Viet Nam, Cambodia, and Laos (*see Spain*).

Do van Nang, leader of the Viet Nameese patriotic youth movement and a supporter of Bao Dai, was assassinated in Saigon.

4 Mar.—M. Pignon, the French High Commissioner, told a press conference that the invasion of Indo China 'by an outside Power would be a *casus belli* for an international war'.

5 Mar.—Viet Minh troops were reported to have attacked fifty villages in Kontum province, which was under their control, in reprisal against the revolt of a tribe.

6 Mar.—A U.S. economic mission arrived in Saigon for discussion on U.S. economic aid.

11 Mar.—It was learned that Ho Chi-minh's Government had decided to institute two years' military service for all Viet Nameese subjects between the ages of eighteen and forty-five.

M. Pignon told a press conference that France would be unable to carry the burden of war in Indo China much longer 'except to the extent that she meets with understanding' on the part of other countries interested in protecting south-east Asia from Communism.

17 Mar.—Viet Minh forces in Saigon opened fire on the two U.S. destroyers which were visiting the port. They scored no hits and their fire was not returned. A French patrol later drove them from their positions.

19 Mar.—About 4,000 students and workers in Saigon tried to march to the quays to stage a demonstration against U.S. aid to Indo China. In a clash with the police in which shots were fired and shops and cars set alight three people were killed and about forty injured, including twenty policemen. Nguyen Huu Tho, a Viet Nameese barrister, was later arrested and charged with organizing the demonstration. M. Palisse, a French national and a Communist, was also detained.

20 Mar.—The U.S. naval squadron left Indo Chinese waters.

INDONESIA. 8 Mar.—Westerling sentenced in Singapore (*see Malaya*).

9 Mar.—An emergency decree was issued merging Central Java, East Java, the town of Padang in Sumatra, and the islands of Madura and Sebang with the Republic.

12 Mar.—West Java was merged with the Republic by decree.

19 Mar.—*Currency Reform*. An emergency decree was published giving effect to measures to reduce the money in circulation and decrease the Budget deficit of 2,650 m. guilders.

It was learned that the Government had arrested an important Dutch official, Dr Ozinga, on suspicion of having been connected with Westerling's escape to Singapore.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE STUDY OF EUROPEAN QUESTIONS. 5 Mar.—The fourteenth report issued by the Committee dealt with Russian aircraft production. It also gave details of alleged Soviet plans for expansion in Asia and said that Africa would be the next objective.

INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS. 18 Mar.—The emergency committee ended its first meeting at its Brussels headquarters.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST CONFERENCE. 19 Mar.—A

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST CONFERENCE (*continued*)

two-day meeting of the committee ended at St Leonards. Abortive discussions were held on the recent agreement between France and the Saar, and a sub-committee of non-interested parties was set up to prepare a report on the problem for submission to the full conference in June. Following the failure of renewed attempts to unite the democratic Socialist groups in Italy a resolution was passed confirming the December decision (*see p. 16*). A further resolution of censure was passed against Franco Spain.

INTERNATIONAL WHEAT COUNCIL. 15 Mar.—The Council, at its second session in London, approved the application of Germany to accede to the International Wheat Agreement. It deferred till later an application by Japan.

IRAQ. 3 Mar.—It was learned that the Chamber of Deputies had passed a Bill permitting Iraqi Jews to renounce their nationality and leave the country. This followed a large-scale smuggling movement of Jews into Persia en route for Israel.

6 Mar.—Nuri Pasha as-Said, the former Prime Minister and leader of the Parliamentary majority, the Constitutional Union Party, addressed a large meeting about the Communist threat to the Middle East. Iraq being nearest to Russia and with her oilfields in the north, was the most vulnerable Arab State and bore the greatest responsibility. Israel was a bridgehead for the Communists. Syria, which was the only weak point among the Arab States sought union with Iraq. Even if this were not realizable in its entirety it should at least be implemented in reference to joint defence.

ITALY. 2 Mar.—*Land Reform.* The seizure of uncultivated private estates by landless peasants in Calabria spread to the Cosenza area. The movement was supported by both the Christian Democrat Unions (L.C.G.I.L.) and the Communist-led C.G.I.L. In the Crotone district the carabinieri intervened when peasants began to occupy cultivated estates, including vineyards.

3 Mar.—*Emigration.* The Senate approved a scheme to promote large-scale emigration to Brazil.

6 Mar.—*Land Reform.* The unrest spread to Palermo where thousands of peasants occupied private tracts of land. The police intervened to evict some of the intruders and several arrests were made. Signor Scelba, Minister of the Interior, reporting to the Council of Ministers, said that the various forms of agitation throughout the countries were 'creating a dangerous situation for democratic institutions'.

10 Mar.—*Land Reform.* Twenty-nine police and sixteen peasants were wounded in a clash in Sicily. Thirty-eight persons were arrested.

12 Mar.—*Land Reform.* Clashes continued in Palermo between carabinieri and peasants who had seized private land. Firearms were used on both sides and eleven peasants and four police were reported wounded. Thirty arrests were made.

13 Mar.—Eighteen people were injured in a clash between neo-Fascists and Communists in Ferrara.

14 Mar.—*Land Reform and Development Plans.* Signor de Gasperi, Prime Minister, described the Government's three plans to a press conference. They were: (1) The ten-year plan for relieving unemployment in, and developing, the depressed areas of southern and central-north Italy. The projects in the south, including land reclamation, irrigation, reafforestation etc., would be financed by an annual sum of 100,000 m. lire drawn from E.R.P. funds and the new taxes, and a financial institute would be set up to issue bonds and transact discount and loan operations. Annual expenditure for the central-north areas would be 20,000 m. lire but no special institute would be created; (2) The National Land Reform Bill. This provided for the expropriation of about 3,700,000 acres of land. Expropriation would be based on the assessed income from land, with the object of favouring owners with well-cultivated land and penalizing those who neglected their property. A quarter of the value of compensation would be paid in cash and the remainder in 5 per cent State bonds; (3) An emergency Bill authorizing an immediate start on land expropriation in the most needy areas in the south while awaiting approval of the national land reform project. This was distinct from the special Bill regarding the Sila area of Calabria, put into effect the previous autumn.

Strikes. A general strike was observed in Venice following an unruly labour demonstration in which twenty policemen were hit by missiles and fifteen workmen wounded by police fire.

17 Mar.—*Communism.* Communist-led workers in Turin attacked the headquarters of the neo-Fascist party (M.S.I.) and did much damage. The police used tear-gas bombs and fired into the air to disperse them.

Budget. The Minister for the Treasury informed Parliament that the Estimates for 1950-1 showed a deficit of 170,000 m. lire, with expenditure at 1,397,000 million. For 1949-50 the deficit was estimated at 175,000 m. lire, while the actual deficit for 1948-9 was 416,000 m.

18 Mar.—*Security Measures.* The Government announced the following measures to safeguard public order: a ban on public meetings by the M.S.I., which was accused of trying to reconstitute the Fascist Party; the prohibition of trade union meetings inside factories except with the consent of the owners and the police; restoration of the police forces to the maximum strength permitted by law; the creation of an inter-Ministerial committee under the Minister of the Interior to co-ordinate measures for ensuring public order. The Council of Ministers also approved Signor Scelba's latest order to prevent further illegal seizures of land and to bring 'those who promote and organize them' to justice. Referring to the recent incidents in Turin the Council emphasized that pending a legal ruling on the character of the M.S.I. it was inadmissible for other political movements to take the law into their own hands.

Land Reform. Police were stoned in the Catanzaro district while trying to prevent seizures of private land. Eleven policemen and eight peasants were injured in the clash and twenty-eight arrests were made.

ITALY (*continued*)

19 *Mar.*—*Somaliland.* It was learned that the Government had appointed Dr G. Fornari, the Ambassador to Chile, as administrator of Somaliland.

The offices of the M.S.I. at Foligno, a village about forty miles east of Rome, were blown up by dynamite. In Brindisi fourteen people were injured in a clash between the M.S.I. and Communists.

20 *Mar.*—A meeting of the Secretariat of the C.G.I.L. decided to challenge the Government's new security measures. Protest strikes were held in several towns in north and central Italy. Attacks were made on M.S.I. headquarters in Spezia and Catanzaro and in both cases the police used tear-gas bombs to disperse the crowds. Two other M.S.I. headquarters near Ferrara were also attacked.

21 *Mar.*—It was learned that thousands of people had been arrested in the past two days and hundreds injured in anti-Fascist activities.

Two workers were shot dead by the police in an unauthorized demonstration at Lentella (Abruzzi).

22 *Mar.*—A twelve-hour general strike called by the C.G.I.L. in protest against the Lentella shootings was observed sporadically throughout the country. Demonstrations were held in various towns, one man being killed (in Parma), and 400 estimated injured. Several bombs exploded in Rome without causing any casualties. A warning to the Communists issued by Signor Scelba said that the Government were in earnest and determined not to give in to the extremists of either Left or Right.

JAPAN. 9 *Mar.*—Allied headquarters issued a statement rejecting Col. Hodgson's charges on 1 March that a new banking monopoly had arisen in Japan. Since 1948 'no monopolistic practices remained which were not normal to the type of banking system being employed'. In fact the eight largest banks controlled rather less than 50 per cent of bank loans and deposits—a state of affairs which compared favourably with that of most democratic nations maintaining similar banking systems.

Mr Spender's statements (*see Australia*).

21 *Mar.*—*Trade Agreement.* It was announced that an agreement with Burma had been ratified providing for an exchange of £17,500,000 worth of goods during 1950.

22 *Mar.*—Mr Yoshida, Prime Minister, speaking in the Diet emphatically rejected suggestions for rearming Japan put forward in certain quarters in the U.S.A. and Britain, for by her Constitution Japan had renounced the right to resort to war. This did not mean she had renounced the right of self-defence; but self-defence could involve aid from foreign countries and protection by means of treaties.

LEBANON. 9 *Mar.*—An unsuccessful attempt was made to assassinate the Prime Minister, Riyad-as-Sulh, by a Syrian belonging to the Nationalist Party.

13 *Mar.*—Rupture of Customs agreement with Syria (*see Syria*). Mr Riyad as-Sulh, Prime Minister, told Parliament that the Govern-

ment wished to maintain the Customs union and would hold Syria responsible for the rupture. A special law was then passed giving the Government wider powers in case a State emergency should be proclaimed.

14 Mar.—Mr Riyad as-Sulh denied to the press that the Lebanon had defaulted on any agreement with Syria.

MALAYA. 2 Mar.—Bandits ambushed a military convoy in Pahang, killing four British soldiers and wounding five. A British civilian and a Malay special constable were also killed.

4 Mar.—Mr MacDonald, Commissioner-General for South-East Asia, spoke at Johore Bahru about the future of Communism in that region and emphasized the importance of obtaining supplementary help from the west.

Two special constables were killed in an ambush in the Segamat area of Johore. A British estate manager and three other special constables were wounded.

5 Mar.—Bandits attacked a village near Muar, in Johore, killing a special constable and a woman, and seizing food.

6 Mar.—A train travelling south from Mentakab, in Pahang, was derailed after an explosion.

A large bandit force ambushed an estate lorry in Kedah, killing three special constables and three other people.

It was announced in Kuala Lumpur that the Federation volunteer force was to be reorganized. The new force would be trained as specialized units for co-operation with regular troops. Several thousand men would be required.

7 Mar.—A notorious bandit leader, Chan Sam Yin, who had a large reward on his head, was shot dead following a savage attack by his men on Kepong village in Selangor.

8 Mar.—Indonesia. 'Turk' Westerling pleaded guilty in a Singapore court to illegally entering the colony and was sentenced to a month's imprisonment.

9 Mar.—A gang of bandits attacked a rubber estate at Triang, in Pahang, killing the Chinese manager and the Chinese contractor and burning the buildings and equipment. Later a train bearing troops to the estate was derailed. Lanchang estate, in the same area, was attacked by another gang.

11 Mar.—A bomb was thrown into the dining room of a hotel in Singapore. Four people were slightly injured.

14 Mar.—A statement issued by the Commissioner-General's office said that reinforcements of aircraft were to be sent to Malaya to support the ground staff. A Ghurkah infantry brigade was also being sent from Hong Kong.

Four people were wounded by a hand grenade thrown at a police station in Penang. Three police and two civilians were killed in a bandit ambush in Perak, the bandits losing two killed and one wounded. Two incidents were also reported in the Kuantan area of Pahang.

15 Mar.—Statement by Mr Dugdale (*see Great Britain*).

MALAYA (*continued*)

A Chinese owned estate in Johore was attacked and two workers murdered.

16 Mar.—Bandits ambushed a party from the Crown Film Unit near Kuala Lumpur, wounding the director, a British officer of the escort, and six others.

An American 'Point four' mission arrived in Singapore from Saigon.

17 Mar.—Bandits burned down the railway station at Kempas, seven miles from Johore Bahru.

20 Mar.—Bandits attacked the town of Bundi, in the Kemaman area of Trengganu.

21 Mar.—The Government announced the appointment of Gen. Sir Harold Briggs (retired) to the civil position of Director of Operations. He would be responsible for directing the anti-bandit campaign and for administering the police force.

Bandits set two ambushes in Kedah, killing two European miners and one British and one Indian policeman, and wounding several other people.

Dispatch of additional military supplies (*see Great Britain*).

22 Mar.—British troops were engaged in a fight in a squatter area four miles from Kuala Lumpur. One Chinese bandit, one woman and a child were killed and five of the security forces wounded.

Statement on casualties (*see Great Britain*).

NETHERLANDS. 2 Mar.—Trial of Mr Louwers in Prague (*see Czechoslovakia*).

4 Mar.—Conviction of Mr Louwers (*see Czechoslovakia*). It was learned that the Government had protested to the Czech Minister that Mr Louwers had been held *incommunicado* since his arrest in December.

7 Mar.—Czechoslovak Note requesting recall of three members of Legation staff (*see Czechoslovakia*).

8 Mar.—*Czechoslovakia*. A Note was handed to the Czechoslovak Minister protesting against the insults suffered by the three members of the Prague Legation and also by Mr Louwers, and rejecting the reasons given for their expulsion. The recall of two Czechoslovak diplomats was requested as a reprisal.

19 Mar.—Prince Bernhard returned from his goodwill tour of the Americas which had included visits to the U.S.A., Canada, Porto Rico, Curaçao, the Netherlands Antilles, Venezuela, Paraguay, Brazil, Mexico, and Uruguay.

PAKISTAN. 3 Mar.—Pandit Nehru on communal riots (*see India*).

5 Mar.—*Persia*. The Shah of Persia visited Dacca, in East Bengal.

6 Mar.—Indian protest *re* treatment of Hindus (*see India*).

Dr Jessup, the U.S. Ambassador-at-large, arrived in Karachi from Kabul.

9 Mar.—*Communal Riots*. It was learned that the Governor-General, Kwahaja Nazimuddin, had been touring East Bengal condemning the recent outbreaks of violence. Speaking at Dacca he had said that

Pakistan regarded her minorities as a sacred trust, entitled to the fullest protection and security.

10 Mar.—The Shah of Persia arrived in Peshawar for a short visit.

Communal Riots. Mr Nurul Amin, Prime Minister of East Bengal, told the Provincial Assembly that 116,024 Muslim refugees had fled to the province from recent disturbances in India. He deprecated the alleged desire of the West Bengal authorities to evacuate minorities wholesale. He also said that the rioting had originated in West Bengal.

12 Mar.—*Persia.* The Shah arrived in Quetta after flying along the north-west frontier from Risalpur and visiting tribal territory near the Kyber pass.

13 Mar.—*Budget.* The 1950-51 Estimates which were presented to Parliament by Ghulam Mohammed, the Finance Minister, called for additional taxation to close the gap between expenditure of Rs.11,554 lakhs and receipts, on the basis of existing taxation, of Rs.11,364 lakhs and to bring in a surplus of Rs.10 lakhs. Defence expenditure to be debited to revenue was estimated at Rs.50 crores and to capital Rs.25 crores.

Persia. The Shah visited the Staff College at Quetta and later spoke of Islamic brotherhood to a meeting of Baluchistan tribal sirdars.

14 Mar.—Indian estimates of Hindu casualties (*see India*).

17 Mar.—*Persia.* The Shah of Persia, on leaving Karachi for home, gave the press a message expressing the hope of intimate co-operation between the two nations 'striving and standing united in the maintenance of peace and enjoying the blessings of unity and reciprocal friendship'.

22 Mar.—*Communal Riots.* The Prime Minister, speaking at Dacca after a series of conciliatory speeches in various centres of East Pakistan, expressed deep distress at the recent unrest and emphatically assured the minorities that their protection and social progress were Pakistan's sacred duty.

PALESTINE. 8 Mar.—*Communism.* It was learned that two Israeli Communists had been arrested and charged with offences under the Official Secrets Act.

9 Mar.—Swedish report on Bernadotte murder (*see Sweden*).

15 Mar.—Recognition of Israel by Persia (*see Persia*).

21 Mar.—*Budget.* Mr Kaplan, Finance Minister, presented to Parliament an interim Budget for the first three months of the coming financial year. It consisted of: an ordinary Budget of £10,600,000; a development Budget of £20 m., and a military budget the size of which was not revealed. He said that the inflationary trend of the previous year had been reversed and that the cost of living had been reduced by 15 per cent.

PAN AMERICA. 19 Mar.—The Council of the Organization of American States issued the report of a committee set up on 11 January to inquire into complaints by Haiti and the Dominican Republic. It recommended sanctions against Cuba, Guatemala, and the Dominican

PAN-AMERICA (*continued*)

Republic if they failed to keep the peace and accused these countries of being involved in 'plots, conspiracies, and attempted invasions' which had kept the Caribbean in turmoil for three years.

20 Mar.—A special session of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council opened in Washington.

PERSIA. 15 Mar.—A treaty of friendship with India was signed in Teheran.

It was learned that the Government had granted *de facto* recognition to Israel.

19 Mar.—It was learned that the Shah had returned from his visit to Pakistan.

The Government resigned. Mohammed Saed, Prime Minister, was asked to carry on the Government until a new one had been formed.

22 Mar.—Ali Mansur, a former Prime Minister, was asked to form a new Government.

POLAND. 3 Mar.—*Church and State*. It was announced that the Bishop of Chelmno, Dr Kowalski, had been freed from house arrest following his declaration that he would in future accept the Government's legislation *re* freedom of conscience.

4 Mar.—Statement *re* Germans in western Poland (*see Germany*).

6 Mar.—*Church and State*. Parliament unanimously approved a decree empowering the State to take over all Church estates of more than 250 acres.

German Refugees. The Government received a British Note protesting against their plans to send large numbers of Germans from western Poland to the western Zones of Germany, over and above the number laid down in the November agreement. Only 25,000 in all would be accepted. Any attempt to transfer a large number without previous planning or notification would be 'both arbitrary and inhuman'. It was understood that a similar Note was received from the U.S.A.

9 Mar.—Mrs Firth, a British subject formerly employed at the British Legation, who had been held *incommunicado* since the previous May, was sentenced to three years imprisonment for sheltering a friend of German origin and a Pole who had helped her son in a German prison camp.

11 Mar.—*German Refugees*. Identical Notes were delivered at the British and U.S. Embassies describing their charges as 'groundless distortions'. The Germans in question were being sent to Germany in accordance with a Polish-east Germany agreement and their disposition after their arrival in Germany was not the responsibility of Poland.

14 Mar.—It was learned that Mr Cyrankiewicz had announced the introduction of a Bill abolishing the system of administration through governors and municipal authorities and establishing instead elected national councils, responsible to the State Council. Among the activities of these councils would be co-operation with the military authorities in strengthening the country's defences.

13 Mar.—Withdrawal from International Bank and Fund (*see U.N. International Bank and U.N. International Monetary Fund*).

20 Mar.—Request for reduction of U.S. diplomats in Warsaw (*see United States*).

PORTUGAL. 22 Mar.—Sir Godfrey Huggins, Prime Minister of Southern Rhodesia, arrived in Lisbon with a delegation for discussions on plans for the extension of the port of Beira, in Portuguese East Africa.

RHODESIA, SOUTHERN. 18 Mar.—Sir Godfrey Huggins in London (*see Great Britain*).

22 Mar.—Sir Godfrey Huggins in Lisbon (*see Portugal*).

RUMANIA. 3 Mar.—The British Information Office in Bucharest was closed in response to a Government request. The disappearance of Mrs Constantin, a Rumanian employee, was later reported by the British authorities.

7 Mar.—Closure of U.S. information office (*see United States*).

8 Mar.—The French and Italian cultural institutes—the last remaining western information centres—were closed to avoid the risk of incidents.

16 Mar.—*Great Britain*. The Foreign Ministry received a Note from the British Government asking that the information office of the Rumanian Legation in London be closed and the publication stopped of *Rumanian News*.

21 Mar.—*Government Changes*. A Cabinet reshuffle was announced. The changes included the appointment of L. Salaganu as deputy Defence Minister and Chief of the General Staff, and his replacement as Construction Minister by Gen. P. Borila.

SOMALILAND, ITALIAN. 19 Mar.—Appointment of administrator (*see Italy*).

SOUTH AFRICA. 3 Mar.—*Communism*. The Government banned the importation of all issues of the Cominform newspaper *For a Lasting Peace* and of the Soviet periodical *New Times*.

4 Mar.—*Native Affairs*. The council of action of the African National Congress decided to cease all co-operation with the Government.

13 Mar.—The Bill abolishing appeals to the Privy Council received its third reading in the Senate.

16 Mar.—*Budget*. The Finance Minister, presenting the Budget in the House of Assembly, announced a deficit in 1949-50 of £750,000 on an estimated total expenditure of £146½ m. For 1950-1 expenditure was estimated at £148,994,000 resulting in a deficit of £344,000, on the existing basis of taxation. He proposed to increase postal and telegraphic rates and the duty on petrol. He laid great stress on the need for economy and the danger of piling up commitments for the future.

SPAIN. 3 Mar.—*Indo China*. The Government announced that at the request of France they had recognized the States of Viet Nam, Cambodia, and Laos as members of the French Union.

SUDAN. 6 Mar.—Sir Robert Howe, the Governor-General, speaking at the opening of the Legislative Assembly, outlined a programme including electoral reform and the formation of a criminal appeal court.

SWEDEN. 7 Mar.—U.S.S.R. Mr Undén, Foreign Minister, said that the Government took an 'extremely serious view' of the halting and detention by the Russians of Swedish fishing vessels in the Baltic.

9 Mar.—*Bernadotte Murder*. A report issued by the State prosecutor, accused the Israeli authorities of 'astonishing negligence' in police work following the murder of Count Bernadotte in September 1948.

11 Mar.—*Scandinavian Conference*. A two-day meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Sweden, Norway, and Denmark and a representative of Iceland ended in Stockholm. According to an official communiqué it was agreed that a Scandinavian customs union was not yet practicable but that inquiries would continue into the possibility of a Scandinavian trade market. It was also agreed that Sweden and Denmark should consult about the Russian seizure of their fishing vessels in the Baltic.

22 Mar.—Mr Undén, Foreign Minister, reaffirmed in a speech to Parliament that Sweden would maintain her neutrality and hold apart from military blocs. A similar statement was made by Mr Erlander, Prime Minister.

SYRIA. 5 Mar.—It was learned that the Government had refused the help offered by the U.N. economic mission headed by Mr Clapp on the grounds that its proposed development schemes were the same as those already decided on by the Government and which would be carried out with a State-guaranteed internal loan.

13 Mar.—The Government issued a statement announcing the rupture of the Customs union with the Lebanon as a result of the latter's refusal, in defiance of the July, 1949 agreement, to take common action to level exchange differences between the two countries and complete an economic and monetary union with Syria. Lebanese reaction (*see Lebanon*).

THAILAND. 2 Mar.—Phot Sarasin, Foreign Minister, resigned in protest against the Government's recognition of Viet Nam, Cambodia, and Laos. He was succeeded by Vorokaran Bancha, deputy Finance Minister.

TRIESTE. 13 Mar.—It was learned that the Yugoslav Military Government had announced the complete incorporation of their zone into the Yugoslav economy.

UNITED NATIONS

INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

13 Mar.—Poland withdrew from the organization 'in view of the complete subservience of the Bank to the dictates of the U.S.A. and its imperialistic policy'.

INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

3 Mar.—The Court ruled by 12 votes to 2 that the General Assembly was not competent to override the Security Council on the question of the admission of new members.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

11 Mar.—A four-day session of the governing body in Geneva ended after deciding *inter alia* to establish consultative relations with the International Federation of Free Trade Unions, and to set up an Asian advisory committee of the governing body.

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

13 Mar.—Poland withdrew from membership.

SECRETARIAT

6 Mar.—*Greece*. A letter to Mr Trygve Lie, the Secretary-General, from Mr Kyrou, the permanent Greek delegate to the U.N., which was published, accused the U.S.S.R. of deporting and exterminating thousands of Greeks who lived in Russia. He denied Russian allegations of ill-treatment of the Greek Communists on the island of Macronesos.

8 Mar.—*China*. Mr Trygve Lie issued the text of a memo which he had circulated to members on the legal aspects of China's representation in the United Nations. He argued that admission to U.N. membership was a collective act not dependent on individual recognition. In the case of two rival Governments in one State the question at issue would be which of them, in fact, had the necessary power to fulfil its obligations of membership.

10 Mar.—*China*. Mr Trygve Lie, speaking to a press conference about his recent memo rejected charges of partiality by Dr Tsiang, the Chinese Nationalist delegate, and said he was surrendering not to Russia but to common sense.

21 Mar.—Mr Trygve Lie, speaking in Washington appealed for a twenty-year programme for peace through the United Nations and proposed that the Security Council should hold periodic meetings attended by Foreign Ministers or even heads of Governments under the terms of Art. 28 of the Charter.

SECURITY COUNCIL

14 Mar.—*Kashmir*. Both India and Pakistan accepted the four-Power resolution (see p. 145), the Indian delegate declaring, however, that his Government maintained their reservations concerning the McNaughton proposals, on which the operative part of the draft was based.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

6 Mar.—It learned that Albania had withdrawn from the organization.

UNITED STATES. 2 Mar.—President Truman told a press conference that he would not go to Moscow so long as he was in office, but he would co-operate in any move to preserve the peace.

UNITED STATES (*continued*)

E.R.P. Dr Stikker, Political Conciliator of the O.E.E.C., addressing the National Press Club in Washington, referred to the 'excellent results' already achieved by the Marshall Plan countries and spoke in general terms of the importance and difficulties of achieving European integration.

Strikes. The United Mineworkers Union was found not guilty by the Federal District Court in Washington on the charges of contempt in failing to get the miners back to work.

3 Mar.—*Strikes.* President Truman asked Congress for emergency powers to take over the coal mines. Shortly afterwards it was announced that agreement had been reached between the owners and the miners on the fundamental principles for a new contract.

It was announced that immigration visas had been refused to a delegation from the Communist-sponsored World Congress of Partisans of Peace.

Alaska. The House of Representatives passed a Bill by 186 votes to 146 granting statehood to Alaska.

Defence. Mr Johnson, Secretary of Defence, speaking in New York said that no form of air defence could guarantee against the possibility of atomic bombs falling on U.S. territory.

Austrian Note *re* Occupation forces (*see Austria*).

4 Mar.—*Strikes.* The contract ending the strike was signed. It provided for a 70 cents a day wage increase covering the whole soft coal industry.

Hungary. U.S. rejection of Hungarian Note (*see Hungary*).

Bulgaria. The State Department published an affidavit by Mr Shipkov, a Bulgarian who had been arrested in Sofia in August, 1949 and after making a 'confession' had been released on condition that he served as an informer at the U.S. Legation. There he had retracted his confession but was later rearrested. His sworn statement described in detail the methods used by the Bulgarian authorities to force him to make a false confession.

6 Mar.—Economic mission in Saigon (*see Indo China*).

Further anti-U.S. charges in Bulgaria (*see Bulgaria*).

Dr Jessup in Karachi (*see Pakistan*).

Protest to Poland *re* German refugees (*see Poland*).

7 Mar.—*Korea.* Mr Acheson, Secretary of State, speaking to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in support of the \$100 m. aid Bill for Korea reaffirmed that U.S. policy in the Far East was directed towards encouraging the welfare and independence of the peoples of that area. The threat of Communist domination in South Korea appeared to have been contained 'at least temporarily'.

Hawai. The House of Representatives approved a Bill conferring statehood on Hawai.

Espionage. J. Coplon, a former employee of the Department of Justice, and V. Gubitchev, a Russian engineer formerly employed in the U.N. Secretariat, were found guilty by the Federal District Court in New York of conspiracy and attempted espionage.

U.S. diplomats' conference in Cairo (*see U.S. Conference on the Middle East*).

The half-yearly report of the Export-Import Bank was published showing that in the last six months of 1949 new credits of \$128,400,000 had been established for economic developments in Europe, Asia, and the Americas. Total credits for 1949 were \$241 m.

Rumania. The State Department announced that it had suspended the activities of its information office in Bucharest at the request of the Rumanian Government.

9 Mar.—Mr Spender on U.S. co-operation (*see Australia*).

Espionage. J. Coplon and V. Gubitchev were sentenced to fifteen years' imprisonment. The sentence on the latter was suspended and he was ordered to be deported to Russia.

U.S.S.R. A speech by Mr Acheson at the White House on 16 February which was published, described the current struggle with Russia as one of total diplomacy. All important public and private institutions must agree voluntarily to direct their efforts to the single purpose of winning a contest which was as decisive for mankind as the earlier struggle against Nazism.

10 Mar.—*E.R.P.* The Economic Co-operation Administration submitted to Congress estimates showing the apportionment of the \$2,925 m. requested for the Marshall Plan countries during the year ending 30 June, 1951, including \$687,100,000 for Britain. Other figures were:—\$85 m., assigned to special projects; \$53,100,000 for administrative expenses; and \$36 m. for supplementary aid to Greece.

Hungarian Note requesting recall of three diplomats (*see Hungary*).

Dr Jessup in London (*see Great Britain*).

11 Mar.—*E.R.P.* Mr Hoffman said that Britain stood to lose \$150 m. in Marshall Aid unless she co-operated in the plan to lower European trade barriers. This reduction should not be considered as punitive action for the money would go into the proposed European payments union whether or not Britain joined. He was 'annoyed' with Britain's attitude though he realized that it was influenced by 'some very real problems'.

Polish Note *re* German refugees (*see Poland*).

12 Mar.—Dr Jessup in Paris (*see France*).

15 Mar.—*Far East.* Mr Acheson speaking in San Francisco said that a profound change was taking place in Asia brought about by a twin revulsion against poverty and foreign domination. Since the end of the war over 500 m. people had achieved national independence and the people of Indo China were moving along the same beneficial road. In China a long and courageous struggle for the same goals of material improvement and national independence had been thwarted by the 'failure' and 'ineptitude' of the Nationalist Government. 'The Communists won by default, not by what they offered.' The Communist seizure of power had reversed the true purpose of the revolution making of this proud country a dependency of the Soviet political system and the Soviet economy. The recent Moscow Treaty failed to provide China with the economic aid she so urgently needed and com-

UNITED STATES (*continued*)

pared unfavourably with previous U.S. aid to Nationalist China; whatever the political and territorial promises it held out for the future it could not be denied that the U.S.S.R. had special rights in China which represented an infringement of China's sovereignty. The traditional U.S. friendship towards China on the other hand was founded on the belief that anyone who violated the integrity of China was the enemy of China and was hostile to the interests of the U.S.A. The American people recognized that the present unhappy status of the Chinese people was not the result of their own choice and they would continue to remain their friends. But the Chinese people must realize that though the U.S.A. did not intend to interfere in their internal affairs, any aggressive or subversive adventures beyond their borders undertaken by their new rulers 'would violate every tradition and interest of the Chinese people . . . of their Asian neighbours, of the American people, and, indeed, of all free peoples. They would violate the U.N. Charter [and] . . . the peace which the Charter was designed to preserve'. The U.S.A. was willing to trade with China subject to the normal conditions of security and honesty, but the Government would give no gifts or credits to those 'who declare their hostility to us and all we stand for'.

Turning to south-east Asia he said that the U.S.A. would continue to support the movement towards self-government and national independence. The major threat to the freedom and the social and economic progress of this area was the 'attempted penetration of Asia by Soviet-Communist imperialism and by the colonialism which it contains'. U.S. assistance could be effective here as elsewhere if it were the 'missing component' in the problem. It must in each case be appropriate to the particular situation, whether in the form of military aid or of grants or loans and must be fitted into the responsibilities of others. He then reaffirmed that the U.S.A. was opposed to the spread of Soviet Communism, because 'it is the means . . . by which Soviet Russia is attempting to extend its absolute domination over the widest possible areas of the world'.

Dr Jessup, the Ambassador-at-large, returned by air from Paris.

16 Mar.—*Soviet Policy*. Mr Acheson, speaking at Berkeley, California, said that, despite the difference between a Marxist and a free society it did not follow that the two systems could not 'exist concurrently in the whole great realm of human life'. But if the two systems were to coexist some acceptable means had to be found to free the world from the destructive tensions and anxieties to which it had been the victim in recent years, and there were seven things which the leaders of Communism could do to give the world confidence in the possibility of peaceful change:

(1) Definition of the terms of peace. As to Germany, a treaty should be formulated which, while not pretending to solve all the problems of the situation, would 'go far towards a relaxation of a set of major tensions'. A basic element in a settlement should be unification under a Government chosen in free elections under international observation. As to Austria, her political and economic independence was being

sabotaged by the determination of the Soviets to maintain their forces and special interests in eastern Austria. As to Japan, the Soviet leaders could recognize the interest which nations other than the members of the Council of Foreign Ministers had in a treaty and could refrain from taking positions and insisting on procedures which blocked progress towards a treaty.

(2) Use of force. The Soviet leaders could withdraw their forces from the satellite countries and refrain from using the shadow of that force to keep in power régimes which did not command the confidence of the peoples. This was a question of elementary good faith.

(3) Obstruction in the United Nations. They could drop their policy of obstruction and instead act as if they believed the United Nations was, as Stalin recently called it, a serious instrumentality for the maintenance of international peace.

(4) Effective control of atomic energy. They could join the U.S.A. in seeking realistic and effective arrangements for the control of atomic weapons and the limitation of armaments. It was not easy for them under their system to contemplate the functioning on their soil of an authority in which non-Communists would participate, and 'if we have not hesitated to urge that they as well as we accept this requirement it is because we believe that a spirit of genuine responsibility to mankind is widely present in this 'world'.

(5) Attempt at undermining established Governments. The Kremlin could refrain from using the Communist apparatus throughout the world to attempt to overthrow established Governments with which the Soviet Government stood in an outward state of friendship and respect.

(6) Proper treatment of diplomatic representatives. The Kremlin could co-operate with America to the end that official representatives were treated with decency and respect and were allowed to function in a normal and helpful manner.

(7) Distortion of motives of others. The Kremlin could refrain from systematically distorting to the Russian people the picture of the outside world and in particular of the United States. These were not 'things that promise the Kingdom of Heaven', and he felt he must warn his hearers that he saw no evidence that the Soviet leaders would change their conduct 'until the progress of the free world convinces them that they cannot profit from a continuation of these tensions'.

He then referred again to the 'total diplomacy' he had discussed some days earlier as necessary to the task of defence against Soviet expansion, and said the alternative was to allow the free nations to succumb one by one to its erosive and encroaching process.

18 Mar.—Mr Chou En-lai on Mr Acheson's speech (*see China*).

19 Mar.—*Pravda* comment on Mr Acheson's speech (*see U.S.S.R.*).

20 Mar.—The Government received a Polish Note asking for a reduction in the size of the U.S. military and air staff in Warsaw.

E.R.P. The House Foreign Affairs Committee voted by 10 to 7 to reduce the cash authorization to the E.C.A. in 1950-1 by \$1,000 m. and to provide instead the equivalent value in surplus agricultural products.

UNITED STATES (*continued*)

21 Mar.—*E.R.P.* The Senate Foreign Relations Committee unanimously approved the full E.C.A. programme of \$2,950 m. plus \$150 m. carried over from the previous year.

Far East. In discussion on the consolidated Foreign Aid Bill the House Foreign Affairs Committee agreed to give the Administration a further year in which to spend the \$100 m. already appropriated for the Far East, with the proviso that \$40 m. of it be earmarked for non-Communist China. The Senate Committee also extended the availability of this money but requested that \$50 m. of it be spent, where practicable, in Nationalist China.

The House of Representatives Appropriations Committee reported that it had approved a total of \$29,045,030,000 for the Appropriations Bill which related to all expenditure for the fiscal year 1951 except for foreign aid and fixed costs. This figure was \$1,567,900,000 less than that asked for by President Truman.

22 Mar.—Conference of U.S. diplomats in Rome (*see U.S. Conference on European Affairs*).

U.S. CONFERENCE ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS. 22 Mar.—A three-day conference of U.S. representatives in the chief European countries opened in Rome under the chairmanship of Mr Perkins, the Assistant Secretary of State.

U.S. CONFERENCE ON THE MIDDLE EAST. 7 Mar.—A conference of U.S. delegates from seventeen Middle East countries opened in Cairo. The First Secretary of the U.S. Embassy in Moscow attended as an observer.

12 Mar.—The conference ended. A communiqué which was issued said that subjects under consideration included the question of technical aid to Middle East countries under the 'Fourth Point' programme, Arab refugees from Palestine, foreign trade, and means of encouraging U.S. private investments in the Middle East countries that wanted them.

U.S.S.R. 4 Mar.—*Austrian Treaty.* It was announced that a Note, dated 27 February, had been sent to the Austrian Government in reply to their Note of 10 February. It declared that the western Powers were responsible for delaying the conclusion of the treaty since they had repeatedly refused to discuss outstanding articles.

5 Mar.—*Western Ukraine.* A *Tass* message from Kiev said that 90 per cent of all cultivatable land in western Ukraine was now collectivized.

7 Mar.—*Atomic Energy.* *Tass* denied that Dr Fuchs, the atomic scientist sentenced in London for spying, had passed information to the U.S.S.R.

8 Mar.—*Atomic Energy.* Marshal Voroshilov said in an election speech at Minsk that the U.S.S.R. had its own atomic bombs which would 'put an end to the atomic blackmail of the imperialists'.

10 Mar.—Mr Molotov, deputy Prime Minister, said in an election speech that the 'imperialists would not succeed in frightening us by the so-called hydrogen bomb'. He reaffirmed the Government's belief in the principle of the co-existence of two systems but 'we also know full well that so long as imperialism exists there exists also the danger of a new war'. He emphasized the continued need to root out imperialists and made a sharp attack on Yugoslavia.

12 Mar.—Marshal Tito's speech (*see Yugoslavia*).

Elections. 99·98 per cent of the electorate went to the polls in the general election. The results in the elections to the Soviet of the Union were 99·73 per cent votes for the Communist and non-party bloc candidates, and 0·27 against. In the elections to the Soviet of Nationalities 99·72 per cent voted for the Communist and non-party bloc and 0·28 against.

16 Mar.—Mr Acheson's speech (*see United States*).

17 Mar.—Agriculture. A decree was broadcast to launch a campaign for raising crop yields and developing cattle breeding. It also announced plans for increasing the intensive training of collective farmers in modern technique and speeding up mechanization.

19 Mar.—U.S.A. An article in *Pravda* said that Mr Acheson's speech showed a 'complete absence of any kind of concrete proposals directed to the support and strengthening of peace'. His 'total diplomacy', like the atom diplomacy was based on force, pressure, and intimidation, and left no door open for agreement.

WESTERN UNION. 5 Mar.—Field-Marshal Montgomery, chairman of the Commanders-in-Chief Committee, arrived in London after defence discussions in Belgium.

12 Mar.—Field-Marshal Montgomery arrived in Oslo for a short visit.

15 Mar.—M. Schuman on need for common armaments plan (*see France*).

WEST INDIES. 6 Mar.—Agreement by Caribbean Commission (*see Caribbean Commission*).

9 Mar.—Report of Standing Closer Association Committee and statement by Mr Griffiths (*see Great Britain*).

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS. 8 Mar.—M. Saillant, the general secretary, speaking in Leipzig, appealed to workers all over the world to frustrate the transport and unloading of American war material 'by all possible means'.

YUGOSLAVIA. 3 Mar.—Bulgaria. A Note was sent to the Bulgarian Government rejecting their Note of 27 February protesting against the alleged murder on Bulgarian territory of two Bulgarian soldiers by Yugoslav frontier guards two days earlier.

5 Mar.—Marshal Tito, speaking at Split, denied reports emanating from his speech of 18 February that Yugoslavia was making a deal with

YUGOSLAVIA (*continued*)

Moscow. The first move towards coming to terms with the Cominform must come from those who started the struggle.

Mr Pijade, a member of the Politburo, said in a speech in Valjevo that a 'mighty' and modernized army was being built up, capable of defending the country's freedom and independence.

12 Mar.—U.S.S.R. Marshal Tito, speaking at Drvar, Bosnia, denied the truth of Soviet propaganda about economic help given by Russia to Yugoslavia during and after the war, and said that as far as the war was concerned 'we even got more help from the west'. Under various trade agreements between 1945 and 1948 Yugoslavia had delivered \$84 m. worth of goods to Russia compared with \$75 m. worth imported from Russia. Referring to internal affairs he said that pressure was being put on the peasants to make them enter the co-operatives before they wished to, resulting in a lowering of morale. Such irregularities would be severely punished.

18 Mar.—Mr Kardelj, Foreign Minister, speaking at Crnomelj, Slovenia, said that co-operation between Communist and capitalist countries was possible. But peace was indivisible and must be based on agreement between all nations, not merely between two or three big Powers. The Communists believed that capitalism was dying out and would be replaced by Socialism. But this was a question that must be decided inside the countries themselves. The U.S.S.R. by going against her declared principles of equality and respect for independence was losing the sympathy of the world and damaging the Socialist cause. Whatever happened Yugoslavia would never become a member of an aggressive bloc.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- Apr. — Meeting of Foreign, Defence, and Finance Ministers of the Brussels Treaty Powers, Brussels.
- „ 24 South Pacific Commission, Suva, Fiji.
- May — F.A.O. Council, Eighth Session, Rome.
- „ — Commonwealth Conference on aid to Asia, Canberra.
- „ 8 World Health Assembly, Geneva.
- „ 14 General Election, Turkey.
- „ 22 UNESCO, General Conference, Fifth Session, Florence.
- June — International Socialist Conference, Copenhagen.
- „ 8 Seventh Imperial Press Conference, Ottawa
- July 1 African Labour Conference, Elizabethville.
- „ 10 Fourth Plenary World Power Conference, London.
- „ 17 Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe, Strasbourg.
- Sept. 28 International Tariff Negotiations, Torquay.